

(ZNS) THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS -- BY A THREE TO TWO VOTE -- HAS DECIDED NOT TO REOPEN THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE 1968 ASSASSINATION OF SENATOR ROBERT KENNEDY.

AN EFFORT TO REOPEN THE ROBERT KENNEDY CASE HAD BEEN SPEARHEADED BY ONE OF THE FIVE SUPERVISORS, BAXTER WARD. WARD HAD ASSEMBLED A COUNTY CORONER'S HEARING LAST MONTH TO REVIEW SOME OF THE POTENTIALLY-CONTRADICTIONARY EVIDENCE IN THE CASE.

DURING LAST MONTH'S HEARING, SEVERAL CRIMINOLOGISTS TESTIFIED THAT THE BULLETS FIRED DURING THE ASSASSINATION APPEARED -- ON THE BASIS OF BALLISTICS TESTS -- TO HAVE BEEN FIRED FROM MORE THAN ONE GUN.

IN ADDITION, LOS ANGELES CORONER DOCTOR THOMAS NOGUCHI TESTIFIED THAT THE SENATOR HAD BEEN SHOT FROM A RANGE OF ONE TO TWO INCHES FROM BEHIND. MOST EYE WITNESSES PLACED SIRHAN SIRHAN, THE CONVICTED ASSASSIN, FROM SIX TO 16 FEET IN FRONT OF THE SENATOR WHEN THE FATAL SHOTS WERE FIRED.

WARD, AND ONE OF HIS COLLEAGUES ON THE BOARD, KENNETH HAHN, VOTED IN FAVOR OF CALLING FOR AN INDEPENDENT REEXAMINATION OF ALL OF THE EVIDENCE, BUT THE THREE OTHER SUPERVISORS VOTED THE MOTION DOWN.

LOS ANGELES DISTRICT ATTORNEY JOE BUSCH HAD STRONGLY OPPOSED ALL EFFORTS TO REOPEN THE R.F.K. CASE -- ZODIAC

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(ZNS) THE USE OF GEOTHERMAL STEAM AS A SOURCE OF POWER HAS ENCOUNTERED SOME DIFFICULTY:

THE LOS ANGELES TIMES REPORTS THAT THE GEYSER POWER PLANTS IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA ARE EMITTING SMALL AMOUNTS OF RADIOACTIVITY.

THE NEWSPAPER SAYS THAT THE PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY HAS DETECTED MEASURABLE AMOUNTS OF A RADIOACTIVE GAS KNOWN AS "RADON 222" BEING GIVEN OFF BY THE UNDERGROUND STEAM.

ALTHOUGH THE RADIOACTIVITY LEVELS ARE CONSIDERED SAFE THUS FAR, EXPANDING GEOTHERMAL POWER IN THE AREA COULD INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF RADON 222 IN THE ATMOSPHERE TO DANGEROUS LEVELS, THE TIMES SAYS -- ZODIAC *** (MORE)