

New RFK Death Probe Set

LOS ANGELES (UPI) — The county of Los Angeles has taken action which almost guarantees a new investigation into the 1968 assassination of Robert Kennedy.

The Board of Supervisors, in a 5-0 vote yesterday, instructed the county counsel to support a suit to determine whether Sirhan Sirhan acted alone or whether there was a "second gun" used in the senator's death.

It also requested the district attorney's office, which secured Sirhan's conviction for murder, to accede to reexamination of the ballistics evidence introduced at the 1969 trial.

ACTING DIST. ATTY. John Howard agreed. But he said his office had no doubt that Sirhan was guilty and that the verdict which resulted in life imprisonment for the young

Palestinian immigrant was just.

"It is in the public interest to get this entire matter out in the open once and for all," said Supervisor Kenneth Hahn.

"Was there a conspiracy? Was the CIA involved? Was there a person other than Sirhan involved? Those are questions that need answering."

At his trial, Sirhan never denied he killed Kennedy. The prosecution produced a dozen witnesses who said they saw Sirhan firing a pistol into Kennedy's body at point-blank range in the pantry of the Ambassador Hotel.

BUT THE "SECOND GUN" theory has been advanced with increasing intensity recently on arguments that bullets removed from Kennedy's body did not match those which

wounded other persons standing nearby.

There also have been claims that, although Sirhan's gun could hold only seven bullets, there was evidence more than seven were fired.

In a suit to be heard tomorrow in Los Angeles Superior Court, Paul Schrade, a United Auto Workers official who was at Kennedy's side and who was injured in the shooting, has asked a reopening of the case.

Schrade has demanded the pistol wrested from Sirhan's hand be refired, that the bullets be compared with those taken from Kennedy's body and that other ballistics evidence be reviewed.