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SIRHAN 8/23/71

1ST LD 139

BY YVONNE PATTEN

LOS ANGELES(CNS)--THE COUNTY GRAND JURY CONCLUDED TODAY ITS PROBE INTO THE HANDLING OF THE EXHIBITS FROM THE SIRHAN SIRHAN CASE AND IT WAS DISCLOSED THAT NO CRIMINAL INDICTMENTS WILL RESULT.

AT THE END OF FIVE DAYS OF CLOSED-DOOR HEARINGS DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY RICHARD HECHT, WHO PRESENTED EVIDENCE TO THE JURY, TOLD NEWSMEN, "WE HAVE NOT ASKED THE GRAND JURY TO CONSIDER INDICTMENTS IN THIS CASE."

HE SAID THE JURY CAN NOW ISSUE A REPORT ON THE INVESTIGATION OR MAKE SOME RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS.

HECHT MAINTAINS THAT THE JURY'S PRIMARY CONCERN WAS WHETHER THE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE PROPERLY DISCHARGED ITS DUTIES UNDER JUDICIAL ORDERS BARRING ANYONE FROM EXAMINING THE EXHIBITS WITHOUT COURT PERMISSION.

HE ALSO DISCLOSED THAT "THERE IS ~~SOME~~ INDICATION THAT SOME COPIES OF EXHIBITS USED DURING (SIRHAN'S) TRIAL ~~ARE~~ PRESENTLY UNACCOUNTED FOR."

THESE PARTICULAR EXHIBITS WERE DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE, HE SAID, BUT WOULD NOT ELABORATE.

AS HECHT SPOKE TO NEWSMEN, GRAND JURORS TOOK A FIELD TRIP TO THE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE TO ACQUAINT THEMSELVES WITH THE PHYSICAL PREMISES.

(MORE)

TT325PM

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1ST AND 1ST LD SIRHAN 183 XIX PREMISES.

AFTER LOOKING AT THE CLERK'S OFFICE, THE JURORS WILL DELIBERATE TO DETERMINE EXACTLY WHAT THEY ARE GOING TO DO NOW THAT THE INVESTIGATION IS OVER, NEHT SAID.

HE SAID ANY DECISION COULD COME LATER TODAY OR TOMORROW.

THE PROSECUTOR EXPLAINED JURORS HAVE THE OPTION OF ISSUING A REPORT NOW OR MAKING THE FINDINGS A PART OF THEIR YEAR-END RECOMMENDATIONS.

NEHT CLAIMS THERE HAS BEEN NO EVIDENCE BEFORE THE JURY OF ANY ACTUAL TAMPERING WITH EXHIBITS.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY JOSEPH P. BUCHAN JR., IN AN EARLIER STATEMENT, SAID THE INVESTIGATION DISCLOSED THAT "A NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS" HAVE EXAMINED THE EXHIBITS WITHOUT SECURING THE NECESSARY COURT ORDER.

MECHT CALLED A TOTAL OF 35 WITNESSES SINCE THE JURY INVESTIGATION BEGAN A WEEK AGO TODAY. THE JURY DID NOT MEET LAST FRIDAY.

DUSCH HAS NOT YET MADE PUBLIC THE RESULTS OF AN INVESTIGATION BY HIS OFFICE INTO ALLEGATIONS BY MRS. BARBARA HARNER BLEHR, AN ATTORNEY, THAT LOS ANGELES POLICE CRIMINALIST DENNYNE (CAPS D N) WELFER VIOLATED PROPER PROCEDURES IN HIS BALLISTICS EXAMINATION.

SINCHEN IS UNDER PENALTY OF DEATH FOR THE 1968 ASSASSINATION OF SEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY.

WHEN THE JURY SESSIONS RECESSED LAST THURSDAY, MECHT SAID HE WOULD ASK FOR AN ADDITIONAL DAY OF TESTIMONY BECAUSE OF "IMPORTANT" EVIDENCE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE JURY.

HOWEVER, HE REFUSED TO DISCUSS ANY "NEW EVIDENCE" AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE INVESTIGATION TODAY. ONE NEWSMAN ASKED HIM IF THE NEW EVIDENCE "BROUGHT ABOUT THE RESULTS" FOR WHICH THE PROSECUTOR WAS LOOKING.

"VERY DEFINITELY, YES," MECHT REPLIED.

(INCLUDED PREVIOUS)

TTJSPW