

SIRHAN 7/16/71

LOS ANGELES(CNS)--TELEVISION STATION KNXT TONIGHT SAID 13 PERSONS, SOME APPARENTLY IN VIOLATION OF A COURT ORDER, HAVE EXAMINED EVIDENCE FROM THE SIRHAN SIRHAN TRIAL.

KNXT SAID A RULING BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE SUPREME COURT HAS ALLOWED STATION PERSONNEL TO LOOK AT THE RECORDS ON THE MURDER CASE IN THE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE.

REPORTER HOWARD GINGOLD INDICATED THAT THE MURDER WEAPON AND THE FATAL BULLETS MAY HAVE BEEN CONTAMINATED BY THE MISHANDLING AND COULD BE USELESS AS EVIDENCE IN FUTURE COURT PROCEEDINGS.

"ADMINISTRATIVE PRACTICES HAVE BEEN SO SLIPSHOD THAT IT'S NOW HARD TO SAY EXACTLY HOW MANY PERSONS ACTUALLY EXAMINED THE EVIDENCE AND WHO THEY ARE," GINGOLD SAID.

SIRHAN WAS CONVICTED OF SEN. ROBERT KENNEDY'S ASSASSINATION IN 1969. DURING THE TRIAL, SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE HERBERT WALKER ISSUED A COURT ORDER PROHIBITING EXAMINATION OF THE EVIDENCE WITHOUT THE COURT'S PERMISSION.

CHANNEL 2 CHARGES THAT RECORDS IN THE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE ARE INCOMPLETE AND THERE APPEARS LITTLE DOUBT THAT JUDGE WALKER'S ORDER WAS VIOLATED IN SOME WAY.

"AMONG THOSE ALLOWED TO VIEW EXHIBITS WAS THEODORE CHARACH, A FREE-LANCE JOURNALIST WHO CLAIMS THAT CRUCIAL EVIDENCE AND TESTIMONY HAVE BEEN SUPPRESSED," THE BROADCAST NOTED."

(MORE)

SR834PM

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1ST ADD 218 XXX BROADCAST NOTED.

WILLIAM HARPER, A CRIMINALIST, WAS ANOTHER PERSON TO GET A GLIMPSE OF THE EVIDENCE AND HE TOLD CHANNEL 2 THAT THE GUN AND BULLETS WERE NOT SEALED IN PLASTIC BAGS.

JUDGE WALKER INSTRUCTED THAT THIS BE DONE BUT, INSTEAD, THE EVIDENCE WAS KEPT IN PLAIN PAPER ENVELOPS.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY JJOSEPH BUSCH IS CURRENTLY INVESTIGATING REPORTS THAT THE EVIDENCE WAS MISHANDLED.

SR837PM