

# Did Sirhan Act Alone? No,

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A controversy is growing in Los Angeles about the adequacy of the evidence that led to the conviction of Sirhan B. Sirhan as the sole assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

This past weekend, former U. S. Rep. Allard K. Lowenstein — echoing the views of a small number of other persons who either saw or have

studied the slaying — said in a New York press conference that new evidence indicates Sirhan did not fire the shot that killed Kennedy.

Lowenstein called upon authorities here to reopen the case. The need for a new investigation is also discussed in an article in the current issue of Harper's Magazine.

None of the critics of the investigation questions that Sirhan fired some shots dur-

ing the murder; they do question the theory that he fired the only shots, or even the fatal one.

On Monday, responding to Lowenstein, Los Angeles District Attorney Joseph P. Busch said the evidence that Sirhan alone killed Kennedy is "absolutely overwhelming."

But later in the day, Sirhan's attorney, Godfrey Isaac, said he plans to file an

## Some Now Insist

appeal with the California State Supreme Court calling for a reopening of the case to hear what he says is new ballistics information.

Sirhan is now serving a life sentence in San Quentin Prison for the assassination of Kennedy on June 5, 1968, in a Los Angeles hotel following Kennedy's victory in the California presidential primary.

Lowenstein, a former congressman from Long Island,

said Sunday that he has been studying the Kennedy case for about a year and has decided that the official version of the case "doesn't square with the facts."

"If this were an ordinary murder case, it would have been reopened on the basis of the new evidence," he said.

According to Lowenstein, trajectory evidence indicates that at least nine bullets (See SIRHAN on 5-A)

### SIRHAN, From 1-A

were fired in the kitchen of the Ambassador Hotel, where Kennedy was shot, although Sirhan's gun only carried eight bullets.

Lowenstein also alleged that witnesses testified Sirhan was about two feet from Kennedy at the time of the shooting, although an autopsy report indicated the fatal shot was fired from a gun about one inch or two from Kennedy's right ear.

Busch said Monday that the evidence collected by his office indicates conclusively that "only eight bullets were fired," and that his office has witnesses who placed Sirhan's gun as close to Kennedy as the autopsy report

indicates.

"The basic fact remains," Busch told the press conference, "that a number of eyewitnesses, at close range, saw Sirhan shoot Robert F. Kennedy and did not see anyone else fire a gun in the pantry of the Ambassador Hotel.

"Scientific tests verified the fact that Sirhan's gun fired the bullets which killed Sen. Kennedy and wounded other persons nearby. The most exhaustive investigation in Los Angeles history determined that no conspiracy existed," said Busch. "I couldn't think of a stronger case."

Isaac said Monday he will file a writ of error within the next few weeks in the hope that it will lead to a new trial for Sirhan.

The defense attorney said he knows nothing about Lowenstein's claims, but said he has new information from Herbert McDonald, a New York criminologist and ballistics expert, that a bullet found in one of the other wounded victims came from a gun other than Sirhan's.

Last May, a Los Angeles County Supervisor, Baxter Ward, held a hearing regarding anomalies in the ballistics evidence of the Kennedy case.

Baxter raised many of Lowenstein's questions at that time, but the Los Angeles Board of Supervisors voted 3-2 against reopening the case.