

Forensic Sciences Group Is Urged To Look Into Probe of RFK Death

2/21/75
By Joel D. Weisman
Special to The Washington Post

CHICAGO, Feb. 20—The president of a scientific-legal society today said he wants his group to launch an investigation to determine if any professional standards were violated in connection with the official investigation of the death of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Robert J. Joling, president of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, holding its 29th annual meeting here, said he also favored reopening the Kennedy assassination probe by Congress. "There are just too many weighty questions that have never been resolved," he said.

The academy is comprised of legal, medical and scientific experts who work in criminology and frequently testify as experts at trials.

Joling said he expects approval from the academy's executive committee Friday to launch its own investigation to determine whether ballistic tests and conclusions drawn after the June 5, 1968, assassination of Kennedy in Los Angeles "were made with integrity and by using the highest professional standards." Most key investigators of the killing are academy members, Joling said.

Critics of the widely held belief that Kennedy was killed by a lone gunman, Sirhan B. Sirhan, contend, among other things, that more complete ballistic tests would disprove this theory.

A panel of eight experts on the assassination presented several theories to the academy today suggesting that more than one gun was used.

Some witnesses said they saw at least one other person (a hotel security guard) with a gun drawn.

One panelist, Thomas T. Noguchi, Los Angeles County medical examiner, said in an interview he favors an investigation by the academy "because there are still several valid questions that are not completely answered."

Noguchi, who performed the autopsy on Kennedy, said he originally recommended the use of a neutron activation test to help prove that fragments of the fatal bullet that struck Kennedy's head and another bullet that lodged in the senator's shoulder matched each other and the remaining bullets in Sirhan's gun. A neutron activation test compares the metallic content of one bullet with another.