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CBS Wants Report

Bobby Kennedy Data Suit

Los Angeles

The Columbia Broadcasting System filed a lawsuit yesterday seeking to force the Los Angeles Police Commission and Chief Edward M. Davis to release a ten-volume summary of the investigation into the assassination of Robert F. Kennedy.

The petition for a disclosure order under the State Public Records Act of 1968 was filed in Superior Court by CBS attorneys Howard J. Privett and Robert G. Damus.

Their action came in the aftermath of Thursday's decision by the Police Commission to not make the ten volumes accessible to the public.

Commission president Samuel Williams said at the Thursday meeting that the issue involved fundamentally competition between the public's right to know and the necessity to protect the confidentiality inherent in all police investigations.

Williams said the commissioners decided the "more compelling weight" fell on the side of confidentiality and protecting innocent persons.

However, the CBS suit cited sections from the government code stating, "Public records are open to inspection at all times during the office hours of the state or local agency, and every citizen has a right to inspect any public record."

Los Angeles Times