Probe Ordered of Sirhan Evidence

Los Angeles

The Los Angeles City Council yesterday ordered an investigation of a report that some evidence in the assassination of Senator Robert Kennedy has disappeared or been destroyed.

The council decision came shortly after a Los Angeles Superior Court judge ordered a re-firing of the revolver with which Sirhan Sirhan shot Senator Kennedy as a test of the theory that there was a second gunman.

The council set a hearing for today after a story in the city's legal newspaper, "The Dail" Journal" quoted an official in the city's legal office saying bullet-marked ceiling panels from the hote itchen where the senator was killed in June, 1968, had been destroyed.

Dion Morrow, a special counsel in the city attorney's office was quoted as saying: "There were no X-rays made of the ceiling panels, and the panels were destroyed in June of 1960.

"There was no place to keep them — you can't fit ceiling panels into a card file."

Advocates of the "two gun" conspiracy theory claim that markings on the bullets fired at the assassination scene show they could not all have come from Sirhan's gun.

Judge Robert Wenke last week ordered a panel of ballistic experts to re-fire Sirhan's gun early next month.

Sirhan trial judge Herbert Walker ordered the evidence in the case preserved after Sirhan was sentenced to death. The death sentence was later commuted to a life sentence and the Palestinian immigrant will be eligible for parôle in 1986.

Reuters