

# One Gun Killed RFK, Ballistics Experts Find

107875 By Bill Richards and Robert Meyers

Washington Post Staff Writers

Only one gun was responsible for the 1968 assassination of Robert F. Kennedy, according to a panel of seven top ballistics experts charged with investigating allegations that a second weapon may have been involved in the senator's death.

The panel unanimously rejected the second-gun theory, but said that because of mutilation and degeneration of some of the evidence it was impossible to prove that three of the eight bullets found at the scene of the shooting came from the gun of convicted assassin Sirhan B. Sirhan.

Instead, panel members said yesterday, they disproved specific questions raised by proponents of the second-gun theory in recent months.

These included allegations that one of the bullets taken from Kennedy's neck lacked

one marking ring, or cannellure, that was evident on the other bullets and that the rifling angles of the bullets did not all match exactly in their pattern.

In their three-page joint report—submitted to Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Robert A. Wenke along with individual analyses by the panel members—the panel said that the physical evidence and improved photographic methods showed the presence of the supposedly missing cannellure.

The panel also said its preliminary measurements showed no significant difference between the rifling angles of the bullets that were questioned.

While acknowledging that they could not specifically prove that each of the eight bullets was fired by Sirhan, panel members said in in-

See GUN, A6, Col. 1

# Single Gun Killed RFK, Panel Finds

GUN, From A1

terviews yesterday that they had disproved to their satisfaction that the bullets were fired from a gun besides Sirhan's.

"Certainly if we could have gotten demonstrable evidence we would have presented it," said Dr. Ralph Turner, a professor at Michigan State University's School of Criminal Justice and a member of the panel. "We went as far as the state of the art allowed."

A chief proponent of the two-gun theory declined to comment yesterday, saying he would wait until he had a chance to examine photomicrographs of the bullets.

"If it is true there was only one gun," said criminologist William W. Harper, "then I will be gratified. I am gratified that a thorough examination of the Sirhan gun has finally been made."

The investigation by the panel was undertaken at Wenke's order after the Columbia Broadcasting System and Paul Schrade, one of those wounded in the shooting, filed a series of legal actions in an attempt to open the files on the original investigation.

Lawyers for Schrade and CBS, as well as the Los Angeles district attorney, the Los Angeles city attorney, the California attorney general and Sirhan—all of whom were represented when the panel's findings were revealed in Wenke's court late Monday—will be allowed to cross examine the seven experts about their report next week, Wenke said yesterday.

The second-gun theory was developed after Harper said photographs he had taken of the bullets showed no similarities between a bullet taken from Kennedy's neck and another which hit a bystander, William Weisel.

Harper's contention that the Kennedy and Weisel bullets showed marked rifling differences was discounted by the panel.