

AUG 15, 75
CINCINNATI
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RFK Case Reopened

LOS ANGELES (UPI) — The presiding judge of the Los Angeles County court system ordered the reopening of the Robert F. Kennedy case Thursday to determine whether someone other than Sirhan B. Sirhan may have also fired a gun in the 1968 assassination.

Superior Court Judge Robert A. Wenke approved a suit calling for Sirhan's pistol to be refired and the bullets compared to those removed from the senator's body and five other persons wounded in the shooting.

Wenke set September 11 for a hearing to determine the circumstances under which a reexamination of the ballistic evidence in the 1969 trial would be conducted.

Sirhan, who was found guilty of first degree murder in Kennedy's death and who is now serving a life sentence at San Quentin, was not present in court but was represented by attorneys.

The county district attorney's office supported the action. Acting District Attorney John Howard had stated Tuesday, however, that he had no doubt that Sirhan was guilty and that the verdict was just but that he supported a probe as to whether there was a "second gun."

The suit calling for a new examination of the ballistics evidence was brought by Paul Schrade, a United Auto Workers executive who was standing next to Kennedy in the Ambassador Hotel pantry in June, 1968, and who was wounded.

The action was also supported by Sirhan's lawyers.

The District Attorney's office, while backing the action, said it was gravely concerned about how the new tests were conducted and how they might affect Sirhan's status.