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By TOM SMITH
A former Congressman

and personal friend of Robert F. Kennedy charges there is "overwhelming evidence" of a cover-up in the handling of the investigation into RFK's assassination.

And his own 3½-year probe convinces him "of serious unanswered questions about Sirhan Sirhan being the sole assassin of Bobby Kennedy," Allard K. Lowenstein, a former Democratic Congressman from New York, told **THE ENQUIRER**.

"There is no way that the question of who murdered Robert Kennedy can be said to be resolved," declared Lowenstein, 48, a lawyer, author and lecturer. "There have been deliberate attempts to bury the whole thing and that has to make anyone wonder why. It's now confirmed that important evidence has been destroyed and it's unbelievable that there would be further de-

Former Congressman Charges . . .

'Overwhelming Evidence' of Cover-Up in RFK Slaying

lay in trying to find out what happened."

Lowenstein said he had believed Sirhan was the sole killer until the summer of 1973, when actor Robert ("The Man from U.N.C.L.E.") Vaughn persuaded him to meet with some people who'd been looking into the case.

"The first thing that rocked me was the autopsy report," Lowenstein said. "I had understood that Sirhan had been facing the Senator — and several feet away — when he started shooting.

"But the autopsy report was quite clear that Sen. Kennedy had been killed by bullets fired from behind at point-blank range of one to three inches."

Lowenstein launched his own investigation, began tracking down witnesses and even flew to Germany to locate Karl Wecker, who had been the maître d' of the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles, where RFK was shot on June 5, 1968.

Wecker had been holding Kennedy's hand, leading him through the throng in the hotel pantry when the shooting started.

"The (Los Angeles) district attorney had claimed Wecker had said Sirhan's gun was fired point-blank at Kennedy's



ACTOR Robert Vaughn sparked the probe into RFK's assassination.

head," Lowenstein said. But Wecker told him a different story: Sirhan's gun was right under his nose, and Kennedy was two arms-lengths away. "As I traced the witnesses

back they all told a similar story — that Sirhan was in front of, and several feet away from Kennedy.

"I spoke to more than six of those closest to the scene. How can they all be wrong?" Lowenstein asked.

In addition, seven bullets were recovered by police, but Wecker insisted Sirhan had fired only two shots before Wecker wrestled him down on to a steam table.

Lowenstein also charged that police officials destroyed vital evidence — a door frame and some ceiling tiles that were struck by bullets.

"The police admitted the evidence was destroyed June 30, 1969, shortly after the first questions about the number of bullets were raised."

Investigators who have studied the case also questioned why no one determined if some of the bullets were fired by a security guard who had been standing directly behind Kennedy. The security guard, Thane E. Cassir, admitted pulling his gun. "It's always puzz-



PROBER: Former Congressman Allard K. Lowenstein says that the murder of Robert F. Kennedy is still not resolved.

zled me why the authorities never put the security guard through a lie detector test," said Lowenstein.

"There has been too much effort to cover up for too long by the people in positions of authority."

Actor Vaughn agreed: "We are still unhappy and deeply concerned that there is something going on in the way of a cover-up in Los Angeles."