

Around the Nation

# Tampering Is Feared in Sirhan Case

LOS ANGELES — District Attorney Joseph Busch Jr. said yesterday there is reason to believe that key evidence used to convict Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, of murdering Sen. Robert Kennedy, has been tampered with.

Busch said his office was "terribly concerned" and had launched an investigation into "evidence that the exhibits have been directly handled by numerous persons" in violation of a decree permitting access to them only by court order.

The district attorney said sealed exhibits containing bullets from Kennedy's body and Sirhan's gun had apparently been handled by unauthorized persons. He made his remarks in a statement concerning reports aired on a local television station Friday.

A freelance writer, Theodore Charach, contends that a second gunman, whom no one saw or heard, actually killed the senator. At a news conference Thursday in Washington, he produced microscopic photos of bullets that hit Sen. Kennedy and another victim of the shooting in the Ambassador Hotel, claiming that the bullets came from different guns. Charach said an associate took the photos last fall while inspecting the Sirhan exhibits at Los Angeles Hall of Justice "with the help of George Shipley," one of Sirhan's attorneys.