

2 L.A. Candidates May Take Lie Test

By Bill Boyarske

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LOS ANGELES—The two candidates for district attorney here are approaching agreement on something unique for even California's colorful politics. They may take lie detector tests.

District Attorney Joseph P. Busch has agreed to sit down at a polygraph to try to resolve a dispute over conflicting statements made by him and his foe, Deputy District Attorney Vincent T. Bugliosi.

Bugliosi also has agreed to the test, but is insisting on conditions which might cancel it.

The man considered to be one of America's foremost polygraph specialists, John Reid of Chicago, said he once performed a lie detector test on a Florida sheriff. The test, he said, showed the sheriff was engaged in questionable behavior. But the voters, told of the results, elected him anyway.

The dispute between Busch and Bugliosi is one of the major ones of their intense campaign for district

attorney, involving the credibility of both men.

Busch accused Bugliosi of offering to pull out of the district attorney's election if Busch would help him get a job as a special prosecutor in the Angela Davis case and later assist him in getting a judgeship.

Busch said the offer was conveyed to him by Bill Farr, who was Busch's press secretary at the time and is now a Los Angeles Times reporter. Farr backed up Busch's story.

Bugliosi told an opposite story. He said John Howard, Busch's chief deputy, had offered him the Davis prosecution job if he would drop out of the race. Howard denied it.

After listening to everybody call each other liars, KNBC-TV's Robert Abernathy challenged them to take lie detector tests.

Busch agreed immediately. Bugliosi was more hesitant. Busch's aides said that was because Bugliosi was lying. Bugliosi's aides said it was because they didn't have much faith in lie detectors.