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Yerty

LOS ANGELES AP—Mayor Sam Yerty says Superior Court Judge Arthur L. Alarcón probably exceeded his authority by choking off discussion about the murder of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy in an effort to assure the accused assassin a fair trial.

A judge can't sit up there in court telling everyone on the outside what they can do and cannot do," Yerty told a City Hall news conference Wednesday.

After the killing Yerty caused an uproar when he disclosed the contents of two notebooks allegedly found in the home of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, who has been charged with murder.

The mayor also said he would ask the City Council to pass local gun control legislation if the state failed to enact a strong bill.

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A local gun control law would be a "last gap" action, he said, since the state has pre-empted the field and is the only hope for an effective bill.

Yerty said the gun control bill now pending in Sacramento sounds to me like very good legislation" and should get majority support.

The mayor showed little concern about the new Committee for the City, formed last week to remedy the "lack of leadership" in City Hall.

The group, headed by UCLA Prof. Werner Hirsch, has denied it is engaged in a "step Yerty," movement although leaders did admit many members were disenchanted with the mayor.

It wouldn't make any difference to me," Yerty said.

Switching topics again, Yerty criticized William Frederickson Jr., recreation and parks department general manager, and former Parks Commissioner Mel Pierson for failing to tell him about an alleged attempt to bribe a department employe in 1962.

Frederickson told the commission last week the alleged bribe attempt was a pre-arranged "test" of the honesty of the employe, who passed with flying colors.

The mayor said he did not "dress down" Frederickson for not reporting the incident, but said such a lack of communication would never happen again.