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Sirhan Evidence Tampering Probe

LOS ANGELES (UPI) — Authorities are investigating the possibility that evidence used to convict Sirhan Sirhan of the murder of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy has been tampered with since the trial, television station KNXT said yesterday.

The station said on its evening news program that "at least four persons, and possibly many others," have viewed some of the exhibits on file at the county clerk's office without obtaining the required court orders.

"Indications are that the seals were broken on such evi-

dence as the gun, the bullets, and the coat Robert Kennedy was wearing," the story said.

"Authorities want to know if the gun has been tampered with; if its physical characteristics have been changed since it was sealed and turned over to the county clerk," the station said.

A free lance writer is suing the county to make a full disclosure of the details of the investigation into the Kennedy assassination. The suit said the murder weapon, a .22-caliber Ivar-Johnson pistol, was not test fired before the trial, but rather that a similar firearm was discharged and the bullets used in court.