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Jury Charges on Sirhan Evidence

Los Angeles

County Clerk William Sharp, whose office has custody of evidence pertaining to the Kennedy assassination, was rebuked by the county grand jury yesterday for slipshod administrative procedures.

The jury sent a letter to the board of supervisors after it ended a one - week investigation into reports that the exhibits used at the trial of Sirhan B. Sirhan had been examined by persons who failed to secure the required court order.

The jury letter said the exhibits were handled by unauthorized persons and that office employees "mishandled" the evidence to the point where the jurors have reservations as to "the present integrity of the ballistics exhibits."

The evidence stored in the clerk's office includes the slugs removed from Robert F. Kennedy's body, his clothes, and the murder weapon. Observers have said that the markings on the soft lead of the slug could be

damaged by improper handling, thus hampering the state's case in fighting Sirhan's appeal of the conviction.

Earlier yesterday, deputy district attorney Richard Hecht, who presented the case to the jury last week, revealed that a copy of one of Sirhan's scribbled notebook - diaries was missing from the clerk's files. He said, however, the original is still safely in court records stored elsewhere.

The jury letter said that because of the "startling inadequacy" of the records, the jury would be unable to return any indictments against the persons responsible for the missing notebook.

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