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New Weapons' Probe in Robert Kennedy Case

Los Angeles

The county grand jury stirred memories of the three-year-old assassination of Robert F. Kennedy by opening an investigation yesterday into whether the alleged murder weapon and fatal bullets have been tampered with.

The probe came after several persons raised questions about the case, including a Canadian journalist who asserted that Kennedy was killed by a second gunman rather than convicted assassin Sirhan B. Sirhan, now on San Quentin's Death Row.

Grand jurors are expected

to confine themselves to the question of tampering with evidence, which was ordered sealed by the judge in Sirhan's trial. The probe is expected to last about three days.

The first witnesses were two judges in the case and a prosecutor.

District Attorney Joseph Busch Jr. had declared last month that his office was "terribly concerned" over "evidence that exhibits have been directly handled by numerous persons" in violation of the court order. He requested the grand jury investigation.

Associated Press