

A 2D GUN DOUBTED IN SIRHAN ATTACK

Kennedy Ballistic Tests Are Called Accurate on Coast

Special to The New York Times

LOS ANGELES, Oct. 18 — Los Angeles County District Attorney Joseph P. Busch today cleared a police ballistics expert of charges that he improperly conducted ballistics tests in connection with the assassination of Robert F. Kennedy.

The vindication of DeWayne Wolfer, of the Los Angeles Police Department, weakened speculation that a second gun was involved in the 1968 shooting.

Mr. Busch, at the conclusion of a four-month independent investigation, agreed, however, with a county grand jury that has accused County Clerk William G. Sharp of "lax handling" of the evidence against the convicted slayer, Sirhan B. Sirhan.

Charges that Mr. Wolfer testified the wrong gun and otherwise improperly performed the ballistics tests were brought May 28 by Barbara Warner Blehr, a lawyer. Mrs. Blehr made the charges in a letter to the City Civil Service Commission, urging that Mr. Wolfer not be promoted as director of the police department's criminal laboratory.

"Our investigation revealed only that Mr. Wolfer made a clerical error in labeling the trial exhibit envelope containing three bullets test-fired by him from the gun wrenched out of Sirhan's hand at the assassination scene," Mr. Busch said today at a news conference. "There is no evidence that another gun was involved."

"The mislabeled envelope in no way detracts from the salient reality that the murder verdict returned was just and correct."

"I still am totally convinced beyond any doubt," the District Attorney said, "that Sirhan Bishara Sirhan killed Senator Robert F. Kennedy — he and only he, alone."

Sirhan is awaiting execution in San Quentin Prison. Confusion over the handling of the Sirhan gun gave credence to a theory that Senator Kennedy might have been killed by bullets from a gun other than Sirhan's.

"There is no new evidence that would substantiate any two-gun theory," Mr. Busch declared.

Officials in the County Clerk's office had been criticized for

letting unauthorized persons handle evidence and for losing copies of some of Sirhan's notebooks.

Mr. Busch said today that "the integrity of the trial exhibits" had not been properly protected in the County Clerk's office. County Supervisors have ordered an investigation of the office.

On June 5, 1968, Senator Kennedy was shot in a pantry of the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles shortly after claiming victory in the California Presidential primary. He died a day later. Sirhan was convicted and sentenced to death April 17, 1969.

OCT 19 1971

SFChronicle Probe Finds Sirhan Was Sole Killer

Los Angeles

A five-month investigation into reports a "second gun" was used in the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy has confirmed the belief that Sirhan B. Sirhan acted alone, District Attorney Joseph P. Busch Jr. said yesterday.

The controversy was touched off by Barbara Warner Blehr, an attorney, who attempted to block a promotion of Dewayne Wolfer, the criminologist who headed the ballistics investigation in the Kennedy case.

It was alleged by Miss Blehr and later in a lawsuit by freelance writer Theodore Charach that Wolfer violated standard procedures in testing the .22-caliber revolver used by Sirhan to kill Kennedy at the Ambassador Hotel.

They said an independent investigation indicated another gun may have been used in the melee in the hotel pantry moments after Kennedy claimed victory in the 1968 California presidential primary.

Busch, who was appointed district attorney after the case was closed and Sirhan sentenced to death, said his investigation revealed only that Wolfer had a clerical error in labeling the trial exhibit envelope containing three bullets test fired by him from the gun that was wrenched from Sirhan's hand.

United Press