

SFChronicle AUG 13 1975

# Backing for New Sirhan Probe

Los Angeles

The county Board of Supervisors formally instructed its agencies yesterday to support reopening the investigation into the assassination of Robert F. Kennedy to determine whether Sirhan B. Sirhan acted alone or whether there was a "second gun."

The board voted unanimously to order the county counsel's office to appear in court tomorrow to back a suit calling for a new examination of ballistics evidence in the trial at which Sirhan was found guilty of the fatal shooting of the senator in 1968.

It also requested the district attorney's office to intervene in the case and acting District Attorney John Howard agreed to do so.

"It is in the public interest to get this entire matter out in the open once and for all," said Supervisor Kenneth Hahn.

"Was there a conspiracy?

Was the CIA involved? Was there a person other than Sirhan involved? Those are the questions that need answering."

Howard, who was one of the prosecutors at the Sirhan trial, told the board the district attorney's office has no doubt that the Palestinian immigrant was guilty and that the verdict was a just one. Sirhan is now serving a life sentence at San Quentin.

The suit scheduled for preliminary hearing in Los Angeles Superior Court tomorrow was brought by Paul Schrade, a United Auto Workers executive who was at Kennedy's side and who was wounded in the shooting.

His suit demanded that the pistol wrested from Sirhan's hand be refired, that the bullets be compared with those taken from Kennedy's body and that other controversial ballistics evidence be reviewed.

United Press