

TAMPERING FEARED IN SIRHAN EVIDENCE

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LOS ANGELES, July 10 (UPI)

The District Attorney said today he was "terribly concerned" about the possibility that the physical evidence used to convict Sirhan B. Sirhan of the assassination of Robert F. Kennedy had been tampered with.

District Attorney Joseph Busch Jr. issued a statement indicating that his office was investigating "evidence the exhibits have been directly handled by numerous persons" in violation of a court order.

"We are currently in the midst of an investigation to determine whether there has been

any intentional or unintentional tampering with the key exhibits involved in the trial, including the murder weapon and the bullets taken from the body of Senator Kennedy," Mr. Busch said.

Mr. Busch indicated that the possible tampering was discovered when his office began investigating charges of irregularities in the ballistic tests on the gun seized from Sirhan.

The controversy was begun by a lawyer, Barbara Warner Blehr, who charged that serial numbers in court records showed that the bullets identified by a ballistics expert as matching those in Mr. Kennedy's body had not been fired by the pistol the police had taken away from Sirhan.