

Clerk Denies Mishandling Sirhan Evidence

Los Angeles

The county clerk termed "totally unfounded" yesterday grand jury allegations that his office mishandled evidence in the Sirhan B. Sirhan case. He then was named target of a new probe.

County Administrative Officer Arthur G. Will appointed a seven-man task force to investigate what he called "probable malfeasance" in the clerk's office.

The clerk, William G. Sharp, told a news conference that an investigation by his aides in the wake of grand jury criticism indicated that no evidence had been tampered with or removed.

In a letter to the Board of Supervisors Tuesday the grand jury said that evidence was "handled, examined and photographed by unauthorized persons and mishandled by county clerk exhibit personnel."

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