

# Houston Police

## Think Murder

### Weapon Found

HOUSTON (AP) — Police said Friday they believe a pistol found in a vacant lot was the one used last Sunday to shoot and kill Dr. John Hill, a prominent plastic surgeon.

"In my opinion, it's the murder weapon," said detective Jerry Carpenter. Ballistics and fingerprint tests were underway late Friday night, he said.

Hill, 41, was scheduled to go on trial in November for the murder of his first wife, Joan Robinson Hill. He was shot to death shortly after he returned from a trip to Las Vegas with his present wife Connie.

Shots came from a long-haired man who identified himself as a robber.

But in a news conference Friday, the current Mrs. Hill charged that her husband's death was "the conclusion of his well-planned destruction."

She also said there was more than one person involved in the death. "I don't mean there was more than one in the house," she said. "But there was more than one involved."

The pistol recovered Friday had four empty hulls and one live round, officers said.

They also found a briefcase owned by Hill. Carpenter said the pistol was found almost by accident after an 8-year-old youth told police he discovered the briefcase earlier in the day as he walked home from school.

The gunman forced his way into the Hill home Sunday night and tied up Hill's mother and 12-year-old son, then waited for about half an hour until Hill arrived at the front door.

His wife managed to run but Hill was shot three times, then his hands were taped together.

Hill's first wife died in 1969 from what several autopsies said was an unknown infection. He was indicted the next year for murder, charged with failing to give his wife adequate medical care. He was tried on the charge in 1971 but the proceeding ended in a mistrial after inadmissible testimony by his second wife.

Before his death, Hill had filed a multi-million-dollar slander suit against his first wife's father, Houston oilman Ashe Robinson, charging Robinson with trying to wreck his income by spreading rumors about Hill's conduct.