

NR090 WA PLAIN

8:13PM NITEL 08-06-76 SRS

TO ALL SACS

FROM DIRECTOR

*44-388
numef.*

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.; DEPARTMENTAL REVIEW; COST DATA

REBUTEL JULY 29, 1976. IN ORDER THAT COSTS INCURRED IN CONNECTION WITH THIS MATTER MAY BE COMPILED, YOU ARE REQUESTED TO FURNISH THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

1. MANPOWER: THE NAME, GRADE AND SALARY STEP, AND HOURS SPENT, BOTH REGULAR AND OVERTIME, BY EACH EMPLOYEE WHO WORKED ON THIS MATTER.

2. UNUSUAL COSTS: ANY UNUSUAL OR OUT-OF-THE-ORDINARY COSTS. THESE COSTS SHOULD BE ITEMIZED AND THE COST OF EACH ITEM SHOWN SEPARATELY.

ALL REPORTS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE BUREAU, ATTENTION BUDGET AND ACCOUNTING SECTION, FINANCE AND PERSONNEL DIVISION. THE FIRST REPORT FOR THE PERIOD THROUGH AUGUST 31, 1976, AND FOR EACH MONTH THEREAFTER SHOULD REACH THE BUREAU BY THE FIFTH WORKDAY OF EACH MONTH.

END

Do [signature]

44-388-405

SEARCHED <i>[initials]</i>	INDEXED <i>[initials]</i>
SERIALIZED <i>[initials]</i>	FILED <i>[initials]</i>
AUG 6 1976	
FBI - MILWAUKEE	

12

8/12/76

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-106670)
ATTENTION: BUDGET AND ACCOUNTING SECTION
FINANCE AND PERSONNEL DIVISION

FROM : SAC, MILWAUKEE (44-388) (RUC)

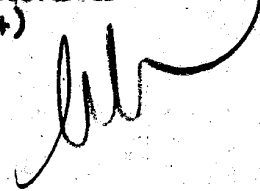
SUBJECT: MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.;
DEPARTMENTAL REVIEW;
COST DATA

Re Butels dated 6/11/76, 7/29/76, and 8/6/76.


The following information is being furnished as to the cost incurred in connection with captioned matter:

1. Manpower: SA EUGENE G. BABLER, Grade 13, Salary Step 10, spent eight regular hours working on this matter.
2. Unusual Costs: None

3 - Bureau (AM)
1 - Milwaukee
EDM:lrh
(4)



SEARCHED _____ INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED RL FILED RL

44-388-406 

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Convicted assassin James Earl Ray has been moved from the main prison in Nashville to Brushy Mountain State Prison in east Tennessee, C. Murray Henderson, corrections commissioner, said over the weekend. Ray, serving 99 years for the slaying of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., was among 50 prisoners transferred.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

A-3

Milwaukee Journal
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Date: 8/16/76
Edition: Latest
Author:
Editor: R. H. Leonard
Title:

Character:

or

Classification: 44-388
Submitting Office: Milwaukee

☐ Being Investigated

44-388-407

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
AUG 17 1976	
FBI-MILWAUKEE	

MI only

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Congressional Report**Kennedy, King Death Probes
May Start Quickly in House**

Washington, D.C. —UPI— The head of a committee to reopen investigations into the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr. says he believes there was a conspiracy in the Kennedy killing and is asking for \$250,000 to start immediate hearings.

The select committee was set up by the House Friday on a 280-65 vote. (In the Wisconsin delegation, only GOP Rep. William Steiger was opposed.)

The first chairman, Rep. Thomas Downing (D-Va.), retires at the end of this year, and the panel must be restructured when Congress reconvenes in January.

Downing asked for the \$250,000 to hire staff and begin hearings before the end of the year. Congress winds up its session Oct. 2. Downing said recent revelations of CIA and FBI activities relating to the investigations of the deaths raised enough questions to justify new probes.

Downing said information was now available that was not known at the time of the original Kennedy investigation, such as the deaths of two Mafia figures recruited by the CIA to kill Cuban Premier Fidel Castro and possible ties to the Mafia and Cuba of Kennedy assassination figures.

"I am convinced a conspiracy was involved," Downing said.

The blue ribbon Warren Commission that investigated Kennedy's 1963 death found that Lee Harvey Oswald was the lone assassin and that no conspiracy was involved, and

former members have insisted that the finding was correct regardless of the new revelations.

Much of the opposition to the new inquiry centered on authority for the committee to look into deaths besides those of Kennedy and King. Rep. John Anderson (R-Ill.) said the scope of the panel's

powers was broadened because of the recent deaths of Sam Giancana and John Roselli, the two Mafia figures connected with a CIA plot to assassinate Castro. Downing said that at the outset the committee would concentrate on Kennedy and King.

King was slain in Memphis in 1968. Many believe that James Earl Ray, imprisoned for the crime, was not the only person involved.

Asked for comment on the new probe, Martin Luther King Sr., the slain civil rights leader's father, declined, saying, "If I were to discuss it, what need? When I got

through with it, I'd still be without a son."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

A-2

Milwaukee Journal
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Date: 9/18/76
Edition: Latest
Author:
Editor: R.H. Leonard
Title:

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: Milwaukee
☐ Being Investigated

44-388-408

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
SEP 19 1976	
FBI-MILWAUKEE	

①-MI-44-388
1-MI-62-1178

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Officer's Removal Spurs King Inquiry

Washington, D.C. —AP— The information that seems about to start a congressional inquiry into the murder of Martin Luther King includes allegations involving the removal of a black policeman and two firemen from their posts in Memphis shortly before King's death.

The information, first aired in 1968, was presented last month to King's widow and to members of the Congressional Black Caucus by Academy Award winning screenwriter Abby Mann and by assassination critic Mark Lane.

Congressional Delegate Walter Fauntroy (D-D.C.) confirmed that Lane and Mann were the source of the "new" information, and a member of the Black Caucus acknowledged that this same information was instrumental in persuading the House leadership to back the resolution creating a new committee to investigate King's death and

that of President John F. Kennedy.

Although this information has been in the public domain since 1968, it appeared that some of it had never been investigated by the FBI.

As described by Lane and Mann in separate telephone interviews Thursday, the information involves a black Memphis police sergeant, Edward E. Redditt, who was in charge of security for King April 4, 1968.

At 4 p.m. that day, Redditt was ordered by Memphis Fire and Police Director Frank C. Holloman to go home because a threat had been made against his life. Redditt returned home where he heard the news of King's death on the radio.

King was shot and killed on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel. James Earl Ray pleaded guilty to the crime and is in prison.

The other information described by Lane and Mann

involved the transfer of two black firemen assigned to a station across from the Lorraine.

Lane implied that Hollo-
man had authority over the
fire as well as police depart-
ment and therefore could
have been responsible for
both personnel switches.

Before taking the Memphis post, Holloman was a 25 year veteran of the FBI, including a stint as an inspector in the office of FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover. Hoover's involvement in the FBI com-

paign to discredit King has been documented by the Senate Intelligence Committee.

A check of newspaper clippings showed that the story of Redditt's removal from duty appeared in print as early as February, 1969.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

A-9

Milwaukee Journal
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Date: 9/17/76
Edition: Latest
Author:
Editor: R.H. Leonard
Title:

Character:
or
Classification: 44-388
Submitting Office: Milwaukee

☐ Being Investigated

77-585-74

SEARCHED h INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED h FILED h

SEP 18 1976
FBI—MILWAUKEE

MI only

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

JFK, King Probes Reopened

Washington, D.C. — The House concluded today that enough new questions have been raised since the assassinations of President Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr. to warrant new investigations by a special committee.

It voted, 280 to 65, to establish a select committee to reopen investigation of the

two deaths and "of any other the select committee shall determine." The panel would have to be re-created in January.

The new panel's first chairman, retiring Rep. Thomas N. Downing (D-Vt.), said recent revelations of CIA and FBI activities in investigating the deaths were

enough to justify new probes.

He cited the deaths of two Mafia figures recruited by the CIA to kill Cuban Premier Castro and possible Mafia and Cuban ties of JFK assassination figures — data unknown to the Warren Commission when it said Lee Harvey Oswald was the lone assassin and no conspiracy was involved.

Other allegations of wrongdoing by the FBI and sloppy investigation into the Kennedy assassination, its harassment of King and the fact that King's assassin has been denied a new trial were cited as justification for the special panel.

Downing said, "I am convinced a conspiracy was involved" in the Kennedy death. The American people want and deserve to know the truth, he said.

But Rep. B.F. Sisk (D-Calif.) told the House, "I thought we put this turkey to bed a long time ago" when the Rules Committee voted against it last March.

"It's a total waste of time" instigated by "plain witch hunters who have some kind

of melodramatic desire for the morbid," he said.

Much of the opposition centered on the authority for the committee to look into other deaths besides those of Kennedy and King. It could even look into the assassinations of Presidents Lincoln, McKinley and Garfield, opponents pointed out.

"For the present the committee's efforts will be concentrated on the deaths of these two people," Downing said.

Rep. John Anderson (R-Ill.) said the scope was broadened because of the recent deaths of Sam Giancana and John Roselli, two Mafia figures connected with a CIA plot to assassinate Castro.

Downing promptly asked for \$250,000 to hire staff and begin hearings before the end of the year. But Rep. Frank Thompson (D-N.J.), chairman of the House Administration Committee which authorizes such funds, questioned setting up a committee two weeks before the scheduled end of the session when it would have to be re-created with the seating of a new Congress in January.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

A-2

Milwaukee Sentinel
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Date: 9/18/76
Edition: Final
Author:
Editor: R.H. Wills
Title:

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: Milwaukee

☐ Being Investigated

44-388-410

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
SEP 19 1976	
FBI—MILWAUKEE	

MI-44-388
1-MI-62-1178

HQ00048 2800018

RR AFD

DE HQ

R 052115Z OCT 76

FM DIRECTOR (100-106670)

TO ALL SACS ROUTINE

BT

E F T O

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

BUDED OCTOBER 26, 1976

REFERENCE BUREAU TELETYPES TO ALL OFFICES DATED JULY 28, 1976 AND JULY 30, 1976 WHICH PROVIDED BACKGROUND MATERIAL REGARDING REVIEW OF OUR KING INVESTIGATIONS CURRENTLY BEING CONDUCTED BY THE OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY (OPR) OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. TELETYPES ALSO PROVIDED INSTRUCTIONS FOR CERTAIN FIELD OFFICES TO FURNISH TO FBIHQ A COPY OF ALL SERIALS CONTAINED IN THE KING ASSASSINATION FILE CAPTIONED, "MURKIN".

PURPOSE OF THIS TELETYPE IS TO INSTRUCT MAJORITY OF FIELD OFFICES TO REPRODUCE AND SEND TO FBIHQ KING AND RELATED SECURITY FILES FOR REVIEW BY THE OPR TASK FORCE.

*No Action
etc*

44-388-411

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
OCT 1 1976	
FBI - MILWAUKEE	

Baker
no action

PAGE TWO (100-1066700) E F T O

THE TASK FORCE DESIRES TO REVIEW FIELD OFFICE FILES AND SUBFILES IN THE FOLLOWING INVESTIGATIONS: (1) MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., SM-C, BUFILE 100-106670; (2) COMMUNIST INFILTRATION OF SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE, IS-C, BUFILE 100-438794; (3) COMMUNIST INFLUENCE IN RACIAL MATTERS (CIRM), BUFILE 100-442529; (4) CPUSA - NEGRO QUESTION, BUFILE 100-3-116; (5) STANLEY DAVID LEVISON, SM-C, BUFILE 100-392452.

IT IS NOTED THAT EACH FIELD OFFICE PROVIDED A COMPLETE INVENTORY OF THE ABOVE FILES IN RESPONSE TO FBIHQ TELETYPE TO ALL OFFICES DATED DECEMBER 9, 1975 CAPTIONED, "MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR".

THE BELOW INSTRUCTIONS DO NOT APPLY TO ATLANTA AND CHICAGO BECAUSE TASK FORCE PERSONNEL HAVE PARTIALLY REVIEWED FILES OF THESE OFFICES AND PLAN TO RETURN THERE IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO COMPLETE REVIEW.

THE BELOW INSTRUCTIONS DO NOT APPLY TO NEW YORK AND BALTIMORE BECAUSE TASK FORCE PERSONNEL PLAN TRAVEL TO THESE OFFICES IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO REVIEW ALL ABOVE FILES.

PAGE THREE (100-106670) E F T O

BIRMINGHAM, CHARLOTTE, KANSAS CITY, LOS ANGELES, MEMPHIS, MILWAUKEE, NEW ORLEANS, OMAHA, ST. LOUIS, SAN FRANCISCO, SPRINGFIELD AND WASHINGTON FIELD DISREGARD BELOW INSTRUCTIONS SINCE OPR REVIEW OF YOUR KING RELATED FILES HAS BEEN COMPLETED.

SAN JUAN DISREGARD BELOW INSTRUCTIONS SINCE YOUR FILE INVENTORY RESPONSE SHOWS YOUR OFFICE HAS NO SECURITY FILES RELATING TO KING.

ALL OTHER RECIPIENTS FURNISH FBIHQ ONE XEROX COPY OF EACH SERIAL CONTAINED IN THE ABOVE SPECIFIED FILES.

IT WILL BE NECESSARY ONLY TO XEROX THE FIRST PAGE OF ANY DOCUMENT IN YOUR FILES IF A COPY OF THAT DOCUMENT HAS BEEN SUBMITTED TO FBIHQ. THIS WILL INCLUDE DOCUMENTS ORIGINATING IN YOUR OFFICE AND THOSE RECEIVED FROM OTHER FIELD DIVISIONS. IT IS NOTED THAT THIS FIRST PAGE SHOULD CONTAIN THE FIELD OFFICE SERIAL IN ORDER THAT THE DEPARTMENT CAN MAKE A COMPLETE CHRONOLOGICAL ACCOUNTING OF EACH FIELD OFFICE SERIAL. ANY DOCUMENTS IN YOUR FILES, COPIES OF WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN SUBMITTED TO FBIHQ, MUST BE REPRODUCED IN THEIR ENTIRETY AND FORWARDED TO FBIHQ.

IF ANY FILE CONTAINS PHOTOGRAPHS, EXHIBITS, OR OTHER

PAGE FOUR (100-106670) E F T O

ITEMS WHICH CANNOT BE XEROXED, A BRIEF DESCRIPTIONN OF EACH ITEM AND LOCATION SHOULD BE SET FORTH IN COMMUNICATIONS TRANSMITTING DESIRED DOCUMENTS TO FBIHQ.

WITH RESPECT TO FILES CONCERNING CIRM AND CPUSA - NEGRO QUESTION, THE OPR TASK FORCE HAS AGREED TO A CUTOFF YEAR OF 1960. THEREFORE, NO SERIAL IN THESE FILES DATED PRIOR TO JANUARY 1960 NEED BE SUBMITTED. THIS CUTOFF DATE DOES NOT APPLY TO INVESTIGATIVE FILES CONCERNING KING, SCLC AD LEVISON.

IT IS REQUESTED THIS MATERIAL DESIRED BY THE TASK FORCE BE PROCESSED AND MAILED TO REACH FBIHQ BY OCTOBER 26, 1976. THE MATERIAL SHOULD BE SENT BY REGISTERED MAIL, ATTENTION DEPUTY ASSISTANT DIRECTOR JJAMES O. INGRAM, GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION.

SINCE THE DEPARTMENT TASK FORCE MUST SEE EVERYYY SERIAL IN OUR INVESTIGATION OF KING AT FB IHQ AND IN THE FIELD, IT IS ECONNOMICALLY BENEFICIAL TO THE GOVERNMENT TO REPRODUCE AND MAIL THESE DOCUMENTS RRATHER THAN HAVING TASK FORCE PERSONNEL TRAVEL TO ALL FIELD OFFICES. ABOVE MENTIONED OFFICES TO BE VISITED IN THE FUTUREE BY THE TASK FORCE WILL BE FURNISHED TRAVEL INFORMATION AT A LATER DATE.

BT

HQ00048 2800018

RR AFD

DE HQ

R 052115Z OCT 76

FM DIRECTOR (100-106670)

TO ALL SACS ROUTINE

BT

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BUDED OCTOBER 26, 1976

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44-388-411

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
OCT 5 1976	
FBI - MILWAUKEE	

PAGE TWO (100-1066700) E F T O

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44-388-411

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PAGE THREE (100-106670) E F T O

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BT

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray Asks Review By High Court

Washington, D.C. — AP — James Earl Ray, convicted killer of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., asked the Supreme Court Friday to review his case, claiming he was "set up to take the rap for a crime he didn't commit."

Ray's appeal to the high court said he was "framed by the FBI and local police and then coerced by his own attorney to plead guilty against his will."

James H. Lesar, the Washington attorney representing Ray, in asking the court to review Ray's conviction, wrote: "The charge is that those who did kill Dr. King are still at large, protected in part by the unwillingness of the courts to face these unpleasant facts."

Lesar could not be reached for further comment on the appeal.

His petition called Ray's case one "of national importance, both politically and legally."

Probe Not Mentioned

The petition did not mention an investigation recently begun by the House into the assassinations of King and President John F. Kennedy.

King was killed by a rifle blast as he stood on a motel balcony in Memphis, Tenn., in 1968.

Ray was arrested in London sometime later and brought back to the United States to stand trial. He pleaded guilty.

In his petition, Ray, now an inmate serving a life term in the Tennessee state penitentiary, claimed a thorough review of his conviction was needed because potential conflicts of interest between two of his attorneys denied him "effective assistance of counsel."

Ray was represented originally by Attorneys Arthur Hanes and Percy Foreman.

Book Brought Up

Ray said the attorneys' financial arrangements with him and author William Bradford Huie precluded fair representation at his trial.

Just last week the Supreme Court refused to waive one of its rules and appoint a lawyer to represent Ray.

He had sought to file his petition earlier but said he had no funds, and Lesar told the court he could no longer represent Ray without payment.

Under Supreme Court rule, the court will not appoint a lawyer to represent a party until it has agreed to hear that party's case.

The court's refusal apparently changed Lesar's mind about representing Ray.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

A-2

Milwaukee Sentinel
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Date: 10/9/76
Edition: Final
Author:
Editor: R.H. Wills
Title:

Character:

or

Classification: 44-388
Submitting Office: Milwaukee

☐ Being Investigated

44-388-412

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
OCT 11 1976	
FBI-MILWAUKEE	

MI only

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Supreme Court Hears Ray Petition

Washington, D.C. —AP— James Earl Ray, unsuccessful in past attempts to withdraw his guilty plea in the assassination of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., is trying to get the Supreme Court to review his case.

Ray clung steadfastly to his claim of innocence Friday in a petition that centered on his relationship with two attorneys before entering his guilty plea.

Claiming he was "set up to take the rap for a crime he didn't commit," Ray's appeal said he was "framed by the FBI and local police, and then coerced by his own attorney to plead guilty against his will."

Washington Atty. James



James Earl Ray

Lesar told the court Friday that Ray's case "raises major constitutional issues with respect to voluntariness of the plea, waiver of conflict of interest and on the part of criminal defense attorneys, and professional and ethical

competence and obligations in representing a defendant."

Lesar added, "The charge is that those who did kill Dr. King are still at large, protected in part by the unwillingness of the courts to face these unpleasant facts."

King was killed in 1968 by a rifle blast in Memphis, Tenn. Ray was arrested in London and extradited to the United States to stand trial for murder. His case never reached a jury because of his guilty plea.

Ray's petition said financial agreements among lawyers Arthur Hanes and Percy Foreman, author William Bradford Huie and himself precluded his chance to receive fair representation.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

A-3

Milwaukee Journal
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Date: 10/9/76
Edition: Latest
Author:
Editor: R.H. Leonard
Title:

Character:
or
Classification: 44-388
Submitting Office: Milwaukee
☐ Being Investigated

44-388-413

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
OCT 9 1976	
FBI-MILWAUKEE	

MI only

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

James J. Kilpatrick

Answers Sought in Assassinations

Just before it closed up shop for the year, the House of Representatives created a select committee to investigate the assassinations of John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King. On balance — on very close balance — the venture may prove a useful undertaking.

Especially in the case of Kennedy, and to a lesser extent in the case of King, unanswered questions abound. These are questions of pervasive public interest. Nearly 13 years have passed since King was slain in Memphis. The questions may be unanswerable. But if the House investigators cannot tie up all the loose ends, they may be able to settle some of the doubts. It is worth a try.

The House committee will be headed by Congressman Thomas N. Downing of Virginia. I happen to have known Tom Downing for 30 years. He is a man of exceptional integrity and common sense. He is not altogether unbiased in the matter of Kennedy's assassination. "I am convinced," he says, "that there was a conspiracy involved."

Budget of \$150,000 for Three Months

But Downing is perhaps as unbiased as any person who has become fascinated by the Kennedy mystery. Downing is a lawyer, a former judge, a low profile veteran of 18 years in the House. He is retiring at the end of this term, and has no political interest to promote.

Downing's 12 member committee will have a budget of \$150,000 to finance its work until the 95th Congress convenes in January. Richard A. Sprague, of Philadelphia,

an experienced federal prosecutor, has signed on as chief investigator.

No one expects the inquiry to be completed in the next three months. By voting 280-65 to authorize the investigation, the House implicitly promised to renew its approval next year. So the committee will have time and money to make a responsible request.

What are they searching for? Says Downing, with disarming simplicity, "the truth." He is satisfied that the original commission on Kennedy's assassination, headed by the late Chief Justice Earl Warren, never found the truth. For reasons that remain unclear to this day, the commission's staff never cleared up doubts that arose at the time; the Warren investigators obviously were unable to examine evidence that has developed in the ensuing years.

Some of the questions go directly to events that followed the November day in Dallas. For example, what kind of rifle was found on the sixth floor of the Book Depository Building?

The rifle officially identified as the murder weapon, now in the National Archives, is a Mannlicher Carcano, a 6.5 Italian carbine. You can inspect it yourself. Yet the gun first identified in the Dallas press was a 7.65 bolt action Mauser. The three officers who found the gun have confirmed that identification in statements under oath. It seems incredible that police officers, familiar with weapons, could have seen the words "Made in Italy, Cal. 6.5" and read them as "7.65 Mauser."

Questions involving the rifle, the "miracle bullet," and

the autopsy findings are the relatively easy questions. Downing's committee wants to explore the tangled, shadowy trail of events over a span of three years preceding the November day. Who was Lee Harvey Oswald? Who was he really? How many "Oswalds" were floating around? Out of the mists of conspiracy and intrigue arising from the dark waters of the Bay of Pigs, grotesque possibilities emerge.

Conspiracy Cult Swarms the Issue

The truth may never be found. Downing recognizes that discouraging prospect; he recognizes, too, that it may be impossible ever to satisfy the conspiracy cult that has swarmed around the Kennedy assassination. In the

whole of the Washington fruitcake, there are no nuttier nuts than the Kennedy nuts. They form a shrill chorus.

What troubles me is the precedent this select committee may set. Legislative committees have no authority to function as grand juries. Their only authority is to investigate in the areas of specific legislative interest.

It is specious to suggest that the committee's purpose is to study legislation "better to protect our president." That is bunk — a feeble and tenuous rationalization. The sole purpose of this investigation is to satisfy a gnawing national curiosity. I had not supposed this to be a function of the legislative branch, but it may be captious to complain. Onward, Downing! And leave no stone unturned. Washington Star Syndicate

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

A-21

Milwaukee Journal
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

10/14/76

Date: Latest

Edition:

Author: R.H. Leonard

Editor:

Title:

Character:

or

Classification: Milwaukee

Submitting Office:

☐ Being Investigated

2-MI (44-388)
(62-1178)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

King Data Destroyed, Panel Told

From Press Dispatches

Washington, D. C. — Robert Ozer, a House Assassination Committee staff lawyer, said Tuesday that documents relating to the murder of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. were destroyed since the panel was created this fall.

Richard Sprague, chief counsel for the 11 member panel, said he could not elaborate because an investigation was not complete.

The committee also voted Tuesday to authorize Sprague to issue subpoenas for information on the assassinations of King and President John F. Kennedy.

He said the committee, which is forming a task force of 170 to conduct the inquiry, had asked the Justice Department and US intelligence agencies for all the evidence they had on the killings.

Both Assassinations

Chairman Thomas Downing (D-Va.) said it would be "a willful violation of our request" if anything were destroyed.

During questioning, Rep. Henry Gonzalez (D-Tex.) asked Ozer:

"Were any documents destroyed since the committee was constituted?"

Ozer replied:

"Yes sir. I believe some documents were destroyed."

After persistent questioning, Sprague said, "They are documents we felt relevant to the investigation of the King assassination and that would have been in the possession of law enforcing agencies." He would not say whether the law enforcement agencies were federal or local.

Files Destroyed

In September, Memphis Mayor Wyeth Chandler revealed that he had ordered the destruction of his police department's domestic intelligence files, some dating back to 1965.

Police Chief W.O. Crumby said they included groups and individuals considered threats to government officials and they would have covered some investigative work dealing with the King assassination.

Sprague said the allegation about destroyed documents had come to him from staff investigators, but he cautioned that he had not yet determined that the documents had in fact been destroyed or that they related to the King case.

In another development, newly disclosed FBI files indicate that a pair of men's shorts with an unusual laundry mark was one of the clues that FBI agents pursued in their search for King's assassin in 1968.

Agents also investigated seven men named John Willard because the suspected assassin used that name when he checked into a rooming house near the hotel where King stayed on his fatal visit to Memphis.

Those details emerged in a review of 442 pages of FBI files on its investigation of the April 4, 1968, slaying of King.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

A-17

MILWAUKEE JOURNAL
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

Date: 11/17/76
Edition: LATEST
Author:
Editor: R.H. LEONARD
Title:

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: MILWAUKEE
☐ Being Investigated

MI ONLY 44-388

44-388-415

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
NOV 19 1976	
FBI-MILWAUKEE	

FBI/DOJ

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Another Look at Assassinations

Under ordinary circumstances, creating the House Committee on Assassinations to reinvestigate the murders of President Kennedy and the Rev. Martin Luther King would seem an excessive step.

These assassinations, especially the Kennedy shooting, have been thoroughly studied. A special commission headed by the late Chief Justice Warren laboriously investigated Kennedy's assassination. It found no reason to believe that the former president was killed by anyone other than Lee Harvey Oswald, acting alone. Both the Senate Watergate Committee and the Senate Intelligence Committee dug into the killing and did not challenge the Warren finding. The King murder also was thoroughly investigated and no conspiracy was found.

But Watergate revelations and related events raise doubts about whether ordinary circumstances hold. The investigatory aftermath of both killings deeply involved the FBI, the CIA or both. And what we know of the agencies during these periods

puts into question the integrity of their work.

There is, for instance, suggestive evidence that Oswald had made contact with Castro's Cuba and told Cuban officials that he planned to kill Kennedy. There is evidence indicating that the CIA had thought of using Oswald as an intelligence source because of his life in the Soviet Union. Yet the CIA denied the latter before the Warren Commission and the CIA never indicated that it had undertaken any steps of its own to assassinate Fidel Castro. Now there also are troubling reports that some evidence used in the King investigation has been destroyed.

None of this disproves the original conclusions that the Kennedy and King slayings were carried out by lone individuals. But there are enough loose ends and enough questions about the motives and actions of federal investigatory agencies to warrant another look by the House. The CIA and the FBI, in the name of future credibility, should support such a review.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

A-18

Milwaukee Journal
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Date: 11/19/76

Edition: Latest

Author:

Editor: R.H. Leonard

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Milwaukee

☐ Being Investigated

1-WA

1-MI-80-383

1-MI-62-1178

1-MI-44-388

44-388-416

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FBI - MILWAUKEE	

FBI/DOJ

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Assassination Panel Adds 2 to Staff

Washington, D.C. — UP —
The House Select Committee on Assassinations announced the appointment Sunday of two New York prosecutors to its staff.

Richard A. Sprague, chief counsel and director of the panel, said Robert Tanenbaum would become the deputy chief counsel for a task force investigating the assassination of President John Kennedy. Robert Lehner will become deputy chief counsel for the investigation of the Martin Luther King assassination.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

A-9

Milwaukee Journal
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Date: 12/6/76
Edition: Latest
Author:
Editor: R.H. Leonard
Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Milwaukee

☐ Being Investigated

44-388-417
SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED

DEC 7 1976
FBI-MILWAUKEE

1-MI-62-1178
MI-44-388

FBI/DOJ

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Claim Ray Aided in King Death

Washington, D.C. — AP — A House Committee on Assassinations report says its investigators have obtained uncorroborated testimony that James Earl Ray received instructions from a secret conspirator during his flight after the murder of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

Delegate Walter Fauntroy (D-D.C.), chairman of the subcommittee probing King's slaying, said the information came from "a very reliable source" who talked with Ray, currently serving a 99 year prison term. Fauntroy stated that the testimony had not been corroborated yet.

Fauntroy said in a telephone interview Friday he would tell the investigators "that there was someone with whom he (Ray) was to get in touch with in Portugal."

3 Leads Cited

The testimony was cited in a 26 page report approved by the full 12 member committee as one of two examples of leads the panel felt must be pursued in its investigation into the assassinations of King and President John F. Kennedy, Fauntroy said.

The other example is the previously reported recollection of former CIA employee

regarding the agency's surveillance of Lee Harvey Oswald in Mexico City less than two months before the Kennedy assassination.

The report, not yet publicly released, will be presented to the full House in January as justification for the committee's proposed one year \$8.5 million budget.

'Worth Following'

Speaking of the new lead in the King case, Fauntroy told a reporter: "You've gone to the heart of the matter, have we corroborated this, and we have not." But he insisted: "The source is of high reliability. We feel confident the lead is worth following."

Fauntroy said the report identified the source as a witness who had never previously been interviewed by any investigative agency. Fauntroy said the source was an American who was neither a relative nor an attorney of Ray, but he refused to give any further identifying information.

James Leary, who has represented Ray since 1970, said the only other persons with whom Ray had talked had been reporters and his prison guards. Leary added that Ray never told him about a secret meeting in Portugal.

The report described the lead as follows: "Ray contacted another person from whom he received further instructions ... out of the United States."

Fauntroy confirmed that the location was Portugal but said investigators did not know the identity of the other person or whether the meeting actually took place.

Ray's ability to evade law enforcement authorities for two months following the April 4, 1968, slaying of King has often been cited as an indication that he had help from conspirators. In particular, his ability to obtain three false passports and pay for trips to England and Portugal has been cited as actions beyond his intellectual or financial means.

In March, 1969, when Ray pleaded guilty to killing King, he told the court he did not agree with statements by the prosecution and by his own defense attorney that there was no conspiracy involved.

The new lead involving the Kennedy assassination cited in the report centered on the CIA's electronic surveillance of the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City.

The CIA tape recorded a phone call between Oswald and the Soviet Embassy and turned transcripts of that recording over to the Warren Commission.

Reliable sources have said the transcripts showed that Oswald was asking for information about obtaining a visa to travel to the Soviet Union. However, three CIA employees stationed in Mexico City at the time have been quoted as saying the tape recordings showed Oswald offering information to the Russians in return for a free trip to the Soviet Union.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

A-2

MILWAUKEE SENTINEL
MILWAUKEE WISC

12/25/76

Date: 12/25/76
Edition: FINAL
Author: R.H. WILLS
Editor:
Title:

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: MILWAUKEE

☐ Being Investigated

44-388-418

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
DEC 26 1976	
FBI - MILWAUKEE	

MI-44-388
1-MI-62-1178

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

King Panel Gets Tip on Conspiracy

Washington, D.C. —AP—
The House Committee on Assassinations wants to pursue a lead from a source who claims that James Earl Ray received instructions from a secret conspirator during his flight after the murder of the Rev. Martin Luther King.

The committee cites the testimony from the unnamed source in a report that will be submitted to Congress next year when the 12 member panel makes its appeal for \$6.5 million to investigate the assassinations of King and President John F. Kennedy.

The Rev. Walter Fauntroy, the District of Columbia's representative to Congress and chairman of the committee, said the new information was uncorroborated but came from "a very reliable source."

Fauntroy said the witness told investigators "that there was someone with whom he (Ray) was to get in touch with in Portugal."

Fauntroy said the source was an American who was neither a relative nor an attorney of Ray's and someone "who had never previously been interviewed by any investigative agency."

Ray's ability to evade capture for two months after the slaying of King has often been taken as an indication that he had help, particularly since he was able to get three false passports and to pay for trips to England and Portugal.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

A-2

Milwaukee Journal
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Date: 12/26/76
Edition: Latest
Author: R.H. Leonard
Editor:
Title:

Character:
or
Classification: 44-388
Submitting Office: Milwaukee
☐ Being Investigated

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
DEC 27 1976	
FBI — MILWAUKEE	

MI only

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

The Gallup Poll Says**Most Believe JFK Was Slain in Plot**

By George Gallup

(c) Field Enterprises, Inc.

Princeton, N.J. — As the House Select Committee on Assassinations begins its investigations, the overwhelming majority of Americans say they believe that others besides Lee Harvey Oswald were involved in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

In the latest survey, just completed, 80% say they think that others were involved in the assassination, while only 11% say they think Oswald acted alone. Nine percent do not express an opinion.

Persons with a college background, while overwhelmingly of the opinion that some form of conspiracy was involved, are less inclined to hold this view than are persons with less than a college background.

Approximately half of the survey respondents who say they believe others were involved did not name a specific group. Among those who did, however, Cuba or Castro were mentioned most often. Other responses frequently given are the Mafia, Communists and the CIA.

The same survey also shows that few Americans believe James Earl Ray acted on his own in the assassination of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Only 18% hold this view, while 69% say they think others were involved and 13% do not express an opinion.

One week after the Kennedy assassination — in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963 — a large majority of Americans expressed doubts that Oswald had acted alone. A survey taken three years later indicated that these doubts had not been resolved. It was therefore, evident that the report of the Warren Com-

mission had failed to convince many Americans that Oswald alone was responsible.

The public, at the time, however, was opposed to a new investigation.

Here is the question asked in the three surveys:

"Do you think one man was responsible for the assassination of President Kennedy, or do you think others were involved?"

Here is the trend, in percentage points:

KENNEDY ASSASSINATION

	One Man	Others Involved	No Opinion
November, 1963	29	52	19
January, 1967	36	50	14
December, 1976	11	80	9

The same question was also asked about the slaying of King in Memphis on April 4, 1968.

KING ASSASSINATION

	One Man	Others Involved	No Opinion
December, 1976	18	69	13

The survey results reported are based on interviews with 1,520 adults, 18 and older, interviewed in more than 300 localities across the nation during the period Dec. 10-13.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

C-18

Milwaukee Journal
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Date: 12/26/76

Edition: Latest

Author:

Editor: R.H. Leonard

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Milwaukee

☐ Being Investigated

44-388-419

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
DEC 27 1976	
FBI - MILWAUKEE	

MI-44-388
1-MI-62-1178

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Washington Scene**JFK, King Panel Tempts Congress With New Leads**

From Press Dispatches

Washington, D.C. —AP—
A House committee, seeking to justify its request for \$6.5 million to investigate the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., says it is looking into new and previously unpursued leads.

At a New Year's Eve news conference the day before the committee's legislative charter expired, panel officials said a new in-depth investigation into the two slayings was needed to resolve lingering doubts.

The assassination committee is expected to be renewed by the new Congress but some members have expressed doubts about the request for \$6.5 million.

A 26-page report released at the news conference was largely a plea that the committee be continued and that the funds be approved.

The report said that the committee could not rule out the possibility of conspiracy in the Kennedy and King assassinations. The committee said that based on the evidence it has collected, it could neither confirm nor deny that more than one person was involved in the killings.

As new evidence, the committee cited a statement attributed to an unidentified

witness that the convicted King assassin, James Earl Ray, had told him he was contacted in Europe by "another person from whom he received further instructions to aid in his continuing flight."

The report said this witness had never been interviewed before by any investigative agency.

The committee report, in its other example of new leads, said staff investigators had been sent to Mexico to interview witnesses about statements made there by Lee Harvey Oswald within 60 days of Kennedy's assassination.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

A-28

Milwaukee Journal
Milwaukee, Wisc.

Date: 1/2/77
Edition: Latest
Author:
Editor: R.W. Leonard
Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Milwaukee

☐ Being Investigated

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JAN 9 1977	
FBI - MILWAUKEE	

1-MI-62-1178
①MI-44-388

44-388-420

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Panel Asks New Probe Of Killings

Washington, D.C. — AP — A new in-depth investigation into the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and the Rev. Martin Luther King is needed to resolve lingering mysteries surrounding the slayings, the House Committee on Assassinations said Friday.

The committee made its statement to justify its formal request for \$6.5 million to pursue leads about James Earl Ray, the confessed slayer of King, and Lee Harvey Oswald, identified by the Warren Commission as the man who shot Kennedy.

Ray reportedly has written a letter to the committee, without his lawyer's consent, stating his willingness to testify. Copies of the letter were sent to the Washington Star and the New York Times.

Ray was quoted in the letter as saying he was "framed by the FBI and local police and then coerced by his own attorney to plead guilty against his will."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

A-15

Milwaukee Sentinel
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Date: 1/1/77
Edition: Final
Author:
Editor: R.H. Wills
Title:

Character:

or

Classification:
Submitting Office: Milwaukee

☐ Being Investigated

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JAN 2 1977	
FBI-MILWAUKEE	

1-MI-62-1178
MI-44-388

44-388-421

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Assassination Committee's Techniques Criticized

From Press Dispatches
Washington, D.C. — The chairman of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights has warned that some of the proposed investigative techniques of the House Select Committee on Assassinations would be "wrong, immoral and very likely illegal."

The warning from Rep. Don Edwards (D-Calif.) concerned the assassination committee's plans to secretly record the remarks of potential witnesses by using hidden body transmitters and then subjecting the responses to psychological stress evaluation.

"Such procedures are, to say the least, totally inappropriate for use by a congressional committee," Edwards wrote in a confidential letter dated Dec. 16 to Speaker

Richard Sprague, the committee's chief counsel and director, has told newsmen he does not intend to tell potential witnesses that their recorded words will be subject to stress evaluation aimed at determining if they are telling the truth.

In addition to criticizing the proposed investigative technique, Edwards also questioned the committee's plan to hold public hearings and the highly public role that has been played by Sprague.

The existence of the Edwards' letter became known after Rep. Robert Bauman (R-Md.) objected to an attempt of the House leadership to obtain a unanimous consent for a resolution recommitting the committee that was

It is expected that the House leadership will immediately seek a temporary extension of the committee until its proposed budget and other questions can be subjected to more formal review during the next six or seven weeks.

In another development, an FBI spokesman said some compromise could be worked out in a squabble between the FBI and congressional investigators involving a newly disclosed bullet allegedly found near the place where Kennedy was assassinated.

But the spokesman, Homer Boynton, said he did not know what solution the FBI would propose to the committee, which has complained that the FBI plans to test the bullet without consulting the committee.

Thomas O'Neill, Majority Leader Jim Wright, Rep. Peter Rodino, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, and three members of the assassination committee.

The use of hidden recording devices and stress evaluation techniques, Edwards said, "would constitute intentional invasions of the most fundamental rights of Americans."

The committee's \$6.5 million first year budget proposal — made public in December — includes \$4,400 for two miniphone recording devices, \$8,000 for two stress evaluators and \$2,800 for two polygraph machines. In addition, the committee budget set aside \$120,000 for four technicians in its proposed "polygraph-psychological stress evaluation unit."



Rep. Don Edwards

initially established last September.

The effect of Bauman's objection was to leave Sprague and the committee's 72 other employees without funds for the planned two year, \$13 million investigation of the deaths of President John F. Kennedy and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

C-12

Milwaukee Journal
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Date: 1/7/77
Edition: Latest
Author:
Editor: R.H. Leonard
Title:

Character:
or
Classification: Milwaukee
Submitting Office:

☐ Being Investigated

44-388-422

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JAN 12 1977	
FBI - MILWAUKEE	

Q-MI-44-388
1-MI-62-1178

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

JFK-King Panel Runs Into Trouble

By Washington Post, AP, UPI, New York Times

Washington, D.C. — The House Select Committee on Assassinations was left without official status again Tuesday when House Democratic leaders hurriedly withdrew a bill re-establishing the committee for the next two years.

House Majority Leader Jim Wright (D-Tex.) said there had been complaints from many House members about the committee's proposed budget and methods.

"So we decided, instead of trying to cram it down their throats and rush it through, to do it in an orderly way," Wright said.

A resolution reconstituting the committee had been scheduled for floor consideration under suspension of the rules procedures. The procedures include limited debate, prohibition of amendments and requirement of two-thirds approval of those present and voting.

With the outcome highly uncertain, Rep. Henry Gonzalez (D-Tex.), who is expected to become the committee's new chairman, signaled House leaders to call off the showdown.

Backers of the committee, which was established last fall to investigate the murders of President John F. Kennedy and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., will now take their resolution to the House Rules Committee. Approval there would send the bill to the House floor under normal procedures requiring only a simple majority. Wright said he doubt-

ed this could be done before next week.

In other congressional developments:

A proposal to allow parents to set up special tax free education trusts for their children is once again putting before Congress the issue of tax relief for the high cost of secondary education. The issue is being raised in the House, where opponents defeated a proposed tax credit to help take the sting off the cost of higher education. The newest proposal, introduced Tuesday by Rep. Hamilton Fish Jr. (R-N.Y.), would allow parents to put aside up to \$750 a year for each child.

Senators have lost their time honored free haircuts and shoeshines in the Senate barber shop. Senate Democrats, in caucus, adopted a new policy of charging senators the same fee as House members pay in the House barber shop, \$2 for a basic haircut for men. Shoeshines cost 25 cents and up, depending on how fancy the shine and how fancy the shoes.

Senate Majority Leader Robert Byrd (D-W.Va.), who was unopposed in last fall's Democratic primary and general election, said Tuesday that his campaign finance committee had placed a \$160,000 in surplus campaign funds in a trustee account over which he has no control.

House Speaker Thomas P. O'Neill Jr. (D-Mass.) Tuesday nominated Rep. James Delaney of New York to be the new chairman of the influential House Rules Committee.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

A-4
MILWAUKEE JOURNAL
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

Date: 1/12/77
Edition: LATEST
Author:
Editor: R.H. LEONARD
Title:

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: MILWAUKEE
☐ Being Investigated

MI ONLY 62-1178
44-388

44-388-423

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

JFK, King Probers Agree to Pay Cuts

Washington Star Service

Washington, D.C. — The staff of the House Select Committee on Assassinations has agreed to take a 35% pay cut over the next three months so that none of its 73 investigators, attorneys and secretaries will have to be fired while the organization fights for its life.

The staff, headed by former Philadelphia prosecutor Richard A. Sprague, figures the pay cuts will allow the committee to continue to operate at a "very reduced level" while the House is being persuaded to approve a multi-million-dollar budget for the probers.

A very reduced level means that investigators and lawyers cannot take any trips in their renewed look into the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and must cut to near nothing the number of long distance telephone calls, a Sprague aide said.

Center of Controversy

At the same time, Sprague, who has become a center of controversy over the staff's request for a \$6.5 million annual budget and its plans to use electronic investigative techniques, gave his personal guarantee to an aide that he would not resign in frustration, anger or anything else while the committee fights for funds.

Sprague, whose salary as chief counsel and staff director is \$39,600, is taking the 35% pay cut along with the other 72 staff members, including 48 persons paid \$16,000 a year or more.

But Sprague has promised to give the staff pay raises, when and if the House approves a big enough budget, so that almost everyone can make up their pay losses.

The staff decision presupposes two things: first, that the House will agree next week to re-establish the committee during this Congress, and second, that the committee will have a budget of \$84,000 a month for January, February and March.

Subject to Debate

Both suppositions are subject to debate, however.

A number of House members are outraged by what

they consider Sprague's outlandish budget request. The House could decide next week to forget all about re-constituting the committee, originally set up last September and operating on an interim basis since its authorization ran out Jan. 3.

And while the committee staff believes it will be entitled to \$84,000 a month for the three months under a resolution to be considered by the House next week, Democratic leaders have circulated a memo putting the figure at \$60,000.

If the leadership figures prevail, there would have to be further pay cuts, or the staff Sprague has been trying to avoid during the budget fight — staff reductions.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

A-8
Milwaukee Journal
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Date: 1/21/77
Edition: Latest
Author: R.H. Leonard
Editor:
Title:

Character:
or
Classification: Milwaukee
Submitting Office:

☐ Being Investigated

44-388-424

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JAN 22 1977	
FBI-MILWAUKEE	

1-MI-62-1178
MI-44-388

FBI/DOJ

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Decision Delayed on Slaying Probes

UPI and AP
Washington, D.C. — The House Rules Committee Tuesday postponed for at least a week a decision on whether to resume a congressional investigation of the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

Meanwhile, the personality of Richard Sprague is becoming the central issue in the debate on continuing the investigation.

Members of the committee raised questions about the professionalism and temperament of Sprague, a former Pennsylvania prosecutor chosen to be chief counsel for the Select Committee on Assassinations.

A resolution calling for the re-creation of the committee, which operated for only three months before the 1975-'76 Congress ended, must be approved by the Rules Committee before it

can be acted upon by the full House.

Sprague has been criticized for speaking too openly to the press on leads developed last year by the committee, for his \$6.5 million per year budget request for the proposed committee's two year life and for taking over prerogatives that belong to congressmen, not staff members.

At least one Rules Committee member, Rep. Trent Lott (R-Miss.), and another Republican, Rep. Bob Bauman of Maryland, have called for Sprague's resignation.

Rep. Henry Gonzalez (D-Tex.), who will be the committee chairman if it is re-established, was one of several members who supported Sprague's retention Tuesday, promising to exercise more control over Sprague, who came to fame with his investigation of the murders of insurgent United Mine Workers union leader Joseph Yablonski, his wife and daughter.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

A-5

MILWAUKEE JOURNAL
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

Date: 1/26/77
Edition: LATEST
Author:
Editor: R.H. LEONARD
Title:

Character:
or

Classification:
Submitting Office: MILWAUKEE

☐ Being Investigated

MI ONLY 62-1178
44-388

44-388-425

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JAN 26 1977	
FBI-MILWAUKEE	

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Panel Chief Says FBI Fighting JFK Probe

Washington, D.C. — AP — Federal law enforcement agencies are trying to block a new investigation of the John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King slayings, the chairman of the defunct House assassination committee said Tuesday.

Rep. Henry Gonzalez (D-Tex.) said there were "strong and organized forces which are dedicated to stopping this investigation in its tracks."

Gonzalez made the statement in an appearance before the House Rules Committee, which will decide whether a resolution to re-establish the committee can be sent to the House floor for a vote.

Gonzalez, who would become chairman if the committee were re-established,

did not identify the federal law enforcement agencies during the Rules Committee meeting but afterwards said retired and active FBI agents were part of the effort.

Gonzalez said active members of the FBI "and some recently retired senior administrative officers, high ranking," have openly stated their intention to stop the House investigation.

He did not name any individuals or identify other federal law enforcement agencies that were trying to stop the probe.

He also said that late last year he was informed of two threats against his life but that he considered both "nuisances."

The House Select Committee on Assassinations was established last year and

went out of business when the new Congress convened earlier this month.

In order to resume its work, the committee must be formally re-established by the new Congress. There has been opposition to the committee's chief counsel and its proposed \$6.5 million budget.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

A-2
MILWAUKEE SENTINAL
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

Date: 1/26/77
Edition: FINAL
Author:
Editor: R.H. WILLS
Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: MILWAUKEE

☐ Being Investigated

MI ONLY 62-1178
44-388

44-388-426

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JAN 26 1977	
FBI - MILWAUKEE	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

FBI Told to Yield King Tapes

Washington, D. C. — A federal judge has ordered the FBI to turn over all tapes and transcripts gathered in wiretapping the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. to the National Archives and directed that they be kept there under seal for 50 years.

A suit for damages had been brought by Bernard Lee, a former aide to the slain civil rights leader, and by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, which King headed until his death in 1968.

They charged that the FBI recorded King's conversations in a room at Washington's Willard Hotel between 1963 and 1968. Both Lee and the SCLC asked both for monetary damages and that records of the overheard conversations be destroyed or impounded.

Federal Judge John Lewis Smith Jr. said the damage claims were barred by the three year statute of limitations, and he dismissed that part of the complaint.

He gave the FBI 90 days to gather all known copies of the recorded tapes and transcripts thereof and deliver under seal to the court an inventory. The tapes and documents themselves are to be turned over to the archives.

Lee had charged that the FBI recorded conversations in 1963 and then sent a copy of the tape to Mrs. King the next year. The SCLC alleged that from 1963 to 1968 the FBI eavesdropped on SCLC employees. Both Lee and the SCLC said recordings had been given to news media and others outside the FBI.

The Senate Intelligence Committee reported in 1975 that from late 1963 until King's death in 1968 the FBI put the civil rights leader under extensive surveillance as part of a campaign to discredit him.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

C-10
Milwaukee Journal
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Date: 2/3/77
Edition: Latest
Author:
Editor: R.H. Leonard
Title:

Character:
or
Classification: 44-388
Submitting Office: Milwaukee

☐ Being Investigated

44-388-427

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 4 1977	
FBI-MILWAUKEE	

MI only

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Squabble Disrupts JFK-King Panel

Washington, D.C. — UPI — The future of Richard Sprague as chief counsel of the House assassinations committee left the panel embroiled Friday in an acrimonious tug of war between its defiant chairman and equally rebellious members.

Chairman Henry Gonzalez (D-Tex.) said Thursday that he was firing the controversial former Philadelphia prosecutor "because of a consistent attempt to undermine my chairmanship and malign me personally" with the staff.

Gonzalez ordered Sprague to clear out his desk by 5 p.m. or be removed forcibly by Capitol police, then left for his home district in Texas.

But the 11 other committee members spurned his decision, declared the firing to be illegal and told Sprague to hold fast, that Gonzalez had no authority for his move.

And Speaker Thomas O'Neill (D-Mass.) told the police not to evict the committee counsel as ordered.

Dissolution Threatened

Before leaving, Gonzalez threatened to dissolve the committee formed to investigate the deaths of John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr.

In a letter to House Rules



Rep. Henry Gonzalez

Committee Chairman James Delaney (D-N.Y.), Gonzalez said that if attempts to resolve the problems fail, "I will not recommend that its life be continued beyond March 31" — the date the House set for the panel to justify itself.

Informed on arrival in San Antonio of his colleagues' action, Gonzalez snapped, "They're not the chairman. He (Sprague) can work for free. He is not going to work under the payroll."

He said before leaving Washington that he had certified to the chief clerk of the House to take Sprague off salary.

Sprague, Gonzalez said, created "an intolerable situation" and "embarked on a calculated course of deceit, deception and divisiveness."

While Sprague hasn't said much on the dispute, his allies on the committee were quick to side with him.

Extra Opposition

Walter Fauntroy, District of Columbia congressional delegate, quickly contacted the 10 other members around the country to rally their support.

The members directed Sprague to "disregard Mr. Gonzalez's order."

Some congressional sources said the dispute might create enough extra opposition to kill the panel once and for all. The committee has been endangered for months anyway.

Led by Sprague, it originally wanted \$13 million for two years. That ran into strong opposition, but instead of killing it outright, the House gave the committee \$4,000 a month to reorganize, come up with new budget proposals, and find fresh arguments to justify its existence before April 1.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

A-8

Milwaukee Journal
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Date: 2/11/77
Edition: Latest
Author: R.H. Leonard
Editor:
Title:

Character:
or
Classification: Milwaukee
Submitting Office:

☐ Being Investigated

44-388-428

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FBI-MILWAUKEE	



Richard Sprague

1-MI-62-1178
MI-44-388

FBI-DOJ

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Assassination Probe Botched

It was fine to try to clear up nagging questions about the assassinations of President Kennedy and Martin Luther King. However, a squabbling House investigating committee has bungled its assignment before much probing even begins.

A peak of ridiculousness was reached the other day when Richard Sprague, abrasive chief counsel of the committee, was fired by the chairman, Rep. Henry Gonzales (D-Tex.), because of alleged attempts to undermine and malign the chairman. However, other committee members refused to back Gonzales.

From the outset, Sprague has rubbed many congressmen the wrong way. He riled liberals with his plan — since abandoned — to use stress evaluators and hidden microphones to test the credibility of witnesses. He also demanded a staff of 170 and a "bare bones" budget of \$13 million for the two year inquiry. The budget was almost eight times the combined sum spent for Nixon's impeachment inquiry and Ford's confirmation hearings.

Meanwhile, Gonzales has often seemed more interested in

headlines than careful review. Recently, he claimed "new evidence" proving conspiracies in the Kennedy and King killings. When pressed, he offered nothing solid.

Some members of Congress oppose the committee for a dubious reason — a belief that the assassinations and subsequent questions about the credibility of federal investigations (notably by the CIA and FBI) are best forgotten. Other members appreciate the clarifying value of a review but cringe at the committee's conduct. The upshot is that the House has given the committee until April 1 to justify its existence.

That was probably too generous. The Kennedy and King cases are sensitive. Questions about them require solid, sober inquiry. Gonzales and Sprague offer the likelihood of a discordant carnival. Although dissolving the committee now might deepen the suspicions of conspiracy theorists, the panel is too poorly led and split by strife to be effective. It should disband and the House should figure out how to do the job right — or forget it.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

A-8

MILWAUKEE JOURNAL
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

Date: 2-15-77

Edition: LATEST

Author:

Editor: R. H. LEONARD

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: MILWAUKEE

☐ Being Investigated

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 17 1977	
FBI — MILWAUKEE	

1-11 02-1170
MI 44-388

44-388-429

FBI/DOJ

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Conspiracy on King Not Ruled Out

Seattle, Wash. —UPI—
Atty. Gen. Griffin Bell said Sunday that a still secret Justice Department investigation did not rule out the possibility that there was a conspiracy to assassinate the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

"I have read the special report the Justice Department had on the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King and there are some questions that are still unanswered," Bell said on CBS-TV's "Face the Nation."

Asked if it ruled out the theory that convicted assassin James Earl Ray was part of a larger conspiracy in the 1968 assassination of the civil rights leader, Bell said:

"I think if you read the report you could lean to either side on it. You could say there is no evidence of a conspiracy or still wonder if there was — that there had to be a conspiracy."

"That's one reason I want to release the report. I want everybody to be able to read the report and make up their own minds on it."

Bell noted that the study was centered on the FBI and its conduct in the assassination investigation — not on the ultimate question of who else might have been involved in the slaying.

He indicated that Ray refused to be interviewed by the Justice Department and said such an interview might help clarify some questions.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

A-14

Milwaukee Journal
Milwaukee, Wisc.

Date: 2/14/77
Edition: Latest
Author: R.H. Leonard
Editor:
Title:

Character:
or 44-388
Classification: Milwaukee
Submitting Office:
☐ Being Investigated

44-388-430

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 15 1977	
FBI — MILWAUKEE	

MI only

FBI/DOJ

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

King Plot Still in Doubt

Seattle, Wash. — UPI — Atty. Gen. Griffin Bell said Sunday a still secret Justice Department investigation does not rule out the possibility there was a conspiracy to assassinate Martin Luther King Jr.

"I have read the special report the Justice Department had on the assassination of the Rev. Martin Luther King and there are some questions that are still unanswered," Bell said.

Asked if it ruled out the theory that convicted assassin James Earl Ray was part of a larger conspiracy in the 1968 assassination of the civil rights leader, Bell said, "I think if you read the report you could lean to either side on it. You could say there is no evidence of a conspiracy

or still wonder if there was — that there had to be a conspiracy.

"That's one reason I want to release the report. I want everybody to be able to read the report and make up their own minds on it," Bell said.

Bell noted that the study was centered on the FBI and its conduct in the assassination investigation — not on the ultimate question of who else might have been involved in the slaying.

"We'd like to have answers to two or three more questions," he said. "It's not a 100% case in the sense that everything has been answered."

He indicated Ray refused to be interviewed by the Justice Department and said

such an interview might help clarify some questions.

In an interview on CBS-TV's "Face the Nation," Bell also revealed he had rejected a plea from Indiana authorities to promise Anthony G. Kiritis immunity from federal prosecution in return for freeing a hostage last week in Indianapolis.

"I was asked to give him immunity and I was advised it would be done under duress and we wouldn't have to honor it," Bell said. "I said I don't think the government ought to lie. Someday we might want to give someone immunity and they wouldn't believe us. Besides that, we ought not to bargain with somebody holding a hostage."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

A-1

Milwaukee Sentinel
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Date: 2/14/77
Edition: Final
Author: R.H. Wills
Editor:
Title:

Character:

or

Classification: 44-388
Submitting Office: Milwaukee

☐ Being Investigated

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 15 1977	
FBI — MILWAUKEE	

44-388-431

MI only

FBI/DOJ

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Probe Chief Loses in Mutiny

By Robert B. Cullen

Washington, D. C. —AP— Room 210 of the Cannon House Office Building seemed an unlikely place for a mutiny, but that was what Rep. Henry Gonzalez (D-Tex.) faced Wednesday.

The high-ceilinged room was filled with spectators, reporters and photographers on hand to witness the expected confrontation between Gonzalez and the employee he had tried to fire, Richard Sprague, counsel of his House Select Committee on Assassinations.

Gonzalez, 61, entered the room slowly, neither looking at Sprague nor speaking to him as he took his place in the chairman's seat and called the meeting to order.

Most committees adopt their rules routinely, in a matter of minutes.

Not this one. Gonzalez's proposed set of rules was discussed word by word:

Stripped of Power

Repeatedly, Gonzalez's proposed rules stating, "The chairman shall have the power to . . .," were changed to "The committee shall have the power to . . ."

Rarely arguing and never raising his voice, Gonzalez acquiesced to the changes, stripping him of the power he wanted to control expenses and personnel.

After five hours of watching his power over the committee slashed, the San Antonio Democrat decided the time had come to speak, and he pulled from his pocket a 13 page speech.

It assailed Sprague in strong language, calling him dishonest, deceitful and irresponsible in his conduct with



—UPI Photo.

The embattled Rep. Henry Gonzalez in Washington Wednesday.

the staff and toward the committee."

"When I see a rattlesnake on the threshold, I stom it first and ask questions later," Gonzalez said.

But the committee was not interested in hearing what Gonzalez had to say. Rep. Richardsoo Preyer (D-N.C.) interrupted after a few sentences.

Preyer, a former federal judge and second to Gonzalez in seniority, said he was trying to prevent a pitched battle.

"We don't want a Wednesday afternoon massacre," Preyer said.

He suggested that the committee adjourn until Monday, allowing time for members to work out a peaceful solution to the impasse.

But Gonzalez was having none of it. He accused the members of refusing to face the facts of a committee budget and staff crisis.

But Preyer's motion to end the meeting carried 8 to 1. The vote, which left Gonzalez without apparent allies, was a surprise move that amounted to a personal re-

buke for the chairman, who cast the lone dissenting vote.

A source said later the members were considering asking House Speaker Thomas (Tip) O'Neill (D-Mass.) to relieve Gonzalez as chairman.

Meanwhile, his colleagues gone, Gonzalez again took out his speech, and read it to reporters still in the room, predicting that the beleaguered panel might never achieve its assigned mission, to probe anew the slayings of President John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

A-18

Milwaukee Journal
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Date: 2/17/77
Edition: Latest
Author:
Editor: R.H. Leonard
Title:

Character:
or
Classification: Milwaukee
Submitting Office:

☐ Being Investigated

44-388-432

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 18 1977	
FBI - MILWAUKEE	

1-MI-62-1178
1-MI-44-388

FBI/DOJ

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Probe Finds No Evidence Ray Had Help

Washington, D.C. — UPI — There is no evidence that James Earl Ray had any help in the 1968 assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., a Justice Department task force said Friday.

The task force criticized the FBI for working undercover to harass King and try to "neutralize" his role as a civil rights leader.

But it "found no evidence of FBI complicity in the murder."

The investigation failed to produce any new evidence showing how Ray financed his travels before and after the assassination.

The Justice Department report was immediately attacked in Atlanta by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, which King founded.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

A-4

Milwaukee Sentinel
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Date: 2/19/77

Edition: Final

Author:

Editor: R.H. Wills

Title:

Character:

or

Classification: 44-388

Submitting Office: Milwaukee

☐ Being Investigated

44-388-433

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 20 1977	
FBI - MILWAUKEE	

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MI only

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Report on Ray Widely Criticized

United Press International

The chairman of the House Committee on Assassinations and James Earl Ray's former lawyer say Ray did not act alone in killing the Rev. Martin Luther King — despite a Justice Department report saying just the opposite.

Rep. Henry Gonzalez (D-Tex.) and lawyer Robert Livingston were responding to the report of a Justice task force, released Friday. Although it did not learn how Ray financed his flight from authorities following the 1968 King killing, the task force said Ray acted alone.

But Gonzalez said Friday in Washington that anyone who thinks Ray or Lee Harvey Oswald, the assumed killer of President John F. Kennedy, acted alone "must also believe in Santa Claus, the Easter Bunny and the Tooth Fairy." He said his panel had "uncorroborated evidence" that neither acted alone.

Coverup Claimed

And Livingston, reached in Memphis, Tenn., said, "From the moment the shot was fired there has been a cover-up" in the Ray case.

The task force report criticized the FBI for working covertly to harass King, but "found no evidence of FBI complicity in the murder."

FBI Director Clarence Kelley said current bureau guidelines would prevent future harassment such as that directed at King.

The task force said the "only new evidence ... developed related to details that did not affect the ultimate conclusion"

Although no evidence was turned up on how Ray got the money to buy a car and a gun, and then flee to Canada,

Spain and England where

he was captured, the task force subscribed to the opinion "that Ray most likely committed on a periodic basis several robberies and burglaries during this period in order to support himself. Ray's criminal background does lend credence to this theory."

Criticism by SCLC

Ray is serving a 99 year sentence in Brushy Mountain Prison in Petros, Tenn., as a result of pleading guilty to King's murder. He has tried in vain for years to get a new trial on the ground that his lawyers duped him into entering the guilty plea.

The Justice Department report on the shooting in Memphis also drew immediate fire from the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in Atlanta.

"We don't have any faith in that report because it seems the FBI and the Justice Department to a degree were involved in the assassination or the events leading up to it," said Tyrone Brooks, national communications director for SCLC.

Brooks said he had more faith in the congressional committee. But the future of that investigation was in doubt at week's end, with Gonzalez saying chief counsel Richard Sprague must go because of insubordination and the rest of the committee in unanimous disagreement. The problem is expected to come to a head Monday.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

A-2

Milwaukee Journal
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Date: 2/19/77

Edition: Latest

Author:

Editor: R.H. Leonard

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Milwaukee

☐ Being Investigated

44-388-434

SEARCHED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	INDEXED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SERIALIZED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FILED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FEB 20 1977	
FBI - MILWAUKEE	

1-MI-62-1178

①-MI-44-388

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FBI King Probe Upheld

Washington, D.C. —AP— A Justice Department task force has found no evidence that the FBI was implicated in the murder of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and concluded that the FBI investigation of the assassination was thorough and honest.

The task force released a 149 page report of its findings Friday after reviewing more than 200,000 FBI documents and interviewing about 40 witnesses.

Former Atty. Gen. Edward Levi launched the investigation to clear up questions about the FBI harassment of the civil rights leader and the investigation of his death.

The task force said the evidence all but ruled out the possibility of a conspiracy to kill King.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

A-3
Milwaukee Journal
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Date: 2/18/77
Edition: Latest
Author:
Editor: R.H. Leonard
Title:

Character:

or

Classification: 44-388
Submitting Office: Milwaukee

☐ Being Investigated

44-388-435

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 19 1977	
FBI — MILWAUKEE	

MI only

FBI/DOJ

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)



Rift Still Plagues King, JFK Probe

Washington, D.C. — UPI — Rep. Henry Gonzalez (D-Tex.), chairman of the House Assassination Committee, arrived for a committee meeting Wednesday and a showdown with Richard Sprague, the committee's chief counsel. Gonzalez named Kenneth Broton, a staff lawyer, "acting staff director" in place of Sprague. Gonzalez attempted to fire Sprague last week, but 11 other members of the committee told Sprague not to leave. The committee overruled the attempt by Gonzalez to settle the issue and voted to adjourn until Monday.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

A-3

Milwaukee Sentinel
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Date: 2/17/77
Edition: Final
Author:
Editor: R.H. Wills
Title:

Character:

or

Classification: Milwaukee
Submitting Office:

☐ Being Investigated

44-388-456

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 18 1977	
FBI - MILWAUKEE	

1-MI-62-1178
1-MI-44-388

FBI/DOJ

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Bell May Quiz King's Killers

New York Times, Los Angeles Times, AP

Washington, D.C. — Atty. Gen. Griffin Bell said Thursday that he was still troubled by some of the unanswered questions surrounding the assassination of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and that he might try to answer them by interviews with the convicted murderer, James Earl Ray.

Bell, who made clear that he planned no action until the House Select Committee on Assassinations decided whether to continue an investigation of its own, said he was particularly interested in learning how Ray obtained the money he had before and after the shooting of King and whether anyone had helped him obtain passports

and make travel arrangements.

"I'd like to know where he got his money," Bell told reporters. "I don't think we're going to find out except from him."

The question of where Ray got the money for extensive travel and expensive purchases between the time he escaped from prison in 1967 and his arrest in London two months after the assassination was not answered by a recent Justice Department study.

Bell said he might consider trying to arrange some "consideration" for Ray if he became convinced that he was telling the whole truth in any interview.

Ray's lawyer, James H. H. said Thursday that he might

advise Ray to continue to refuse interviews and to insist on a new trial.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

A-2

Milwaukee Journal
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Date: 2/25/77

Edition: Latest

Author:

Editor: R.H. Leonard

Title:

Character:

or

Classification: 44-388

Submitting Office: Milwaukee

☐ Being Investigated

44-388-437

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 26 1977	
FBI — MILWAUKEE	

MI only

FBI/DOJ

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Probe Chief Quits Panel in Protest

AP and UPI

Washington, D.C. — Rep. Henry Gonzalez submitted his resignation as chairman of the House Assassinations Committee Wednesday in a feud with chief counsel Richard Sprague, whom he called an "unconscionable scoundrel."

The Texas Democrat said that he had no choice but to resign under the circumstances. He submitted his resignation to House Speaker Thomas O'Neill.

The committee was established to investigate the killing of President John F. Kennedy and civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. It has been all but paralyzed since Feb. 10, when Gonzalez tried unsuccessfully to fire Sprague.

"I found the committee an administrative nightmare," Gonzalez wrote. "I found a chief counsel who assumed full powers of the committee itself, a chief counsel who was insubordinate and insulting, not to mention disloyal."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

— A-2
MILWAUKEE JOURNAL
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

Date: 3/2/77
Edition: LATEST
Author:
Editor: R.H. LEONARD
Title:

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: MILWAUKEE
☐ Being Investigated

MI ONLY 44-388
62-1178

44-388-438

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 08 1977	
FBI — MILWAUKEE	