

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Vital evidence believed withheld from Warren Commission

Congressional review of JFK

assassination proposed

By Z. JOE THORNTON
Star-Telegram Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Two veteran congressmen, saying they represent more than 100 of their colleagues, called Thursday for a reopening of the investigation into the assassination of President Kennedy.

U. S. Reps. Henry Gonzalez, D-Tex., and Thomas Downing, D-Va., charged that the FBI deliberately withheld vital evidence from the Warren Commission, which concluded that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in slaying the President as he rode through downtown Dallas.

Downing's request that a House select committee, which would have subpoena powers, be formed would deal only with the Kennedy slaying.

Gonzalez's proposal would go further, delving also into the killings of U.S. Sen. Robert Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther

King and the attempted murder of Alabama Gov. George Wallace.

No action was taken after the men asked that the matter be considered by the Rules Committee and later by the entire House.

Downing, who is stepping down at the end of this term after 18 years, charged that "the leadership" did not want the study.

He also released for the first time a copy of what he said was an illegally obtained wiretap made by the FBI of a phone conversation between Ruth and Michael Paine, an Irving couple who befriended the Oswalds.

IT WAS MADE THE DAY after Kennedy was shot and while Oswald was in custody in Dallas, FBI officials previously denied the existence of the wiretap.

Downing said details of the conversation were found by researchers in the

national Archives after they tried for years to get through the secret labels that kept them locked away.

He said the document, from the declassified FBI report, "illustrates most vividly the way in which the FBI was flummoxing the Commission."

In the conversation, the report says, Paine is quoted as telling Mrs. Paine "that he felt sure Oswald had killed the President but did not feel Oswald was responsible, and further said, 'We both know who is responsible.'"

Subsequently, in appearing before the Commission's attorneys and the FBI, Paine denied saying he felt he knew who was responsible for the slaying.

"Thus, the Paines are (were) permitted to lie their way out of their telephonic confession," Downing said. "They were confronted with neither their recorded conversation nor Confidential Informant T-4 (code name for the agent who

overheard the call between Paine's office in Arlington and home in Irving).

"They are permitted simply to say that it never happened."

IN URGING THE HOUSE investigation, Downing said he has "No clear idea whatever of the forces behind John Kennedy's death or the motives for the killing. What I do know is that there is an overwhelming abundance of evidence — physical, documentary and scientific — that indicates that Lee Harvey Oswald could not have been a lone assassin.

"Equally as important, a mass of evidence has come to light which indicates that the Warren Commission unfortunately may have made no real effort to get to the bottom of the killing. They were prohibited in many instances by the U.S. intelligence community, which acted collectively as their sole investigator."

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

Fort Worth
1 Star-Telegram
Fort Worth, Texas

Date: 3/19/76
Edition: Morning
Author:
Editor: Jack Butler
Title:

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: Dallas

Being Investigated

File
62-109060
62-109060-A-
NOT RECORDED
185 JUL 9 1976

Assassination of President John F. Kennedy
51 JUN 10 1976 337