

The Truth Heals

Richard Sprague, chief counsel of the new investigation by the House of Representatives into the murders of President John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., is a thorough and persistent man. For years he pushed forward the prosecutions of those who had murdered Jock Yablonski, his wife and his daughter, until he finally obtained the conviction of Tony Boyle, the kingpin of the entire plot. Judging from his plans, Mr. Sprague seems determined to bring the same intensity to bear on his new responsibility.

He told reporters at a Washington breakfast the other day that he hopes to assemble a 170-member staff that will include 25 investigators for each of the two assassinations, 50 members of a "document and research" operation and a legal staff of five. Asserting that one of the major defects of the Warren Commission was its reliance on the F.B.I. and the C.I.A., he promises that his investigation will be thoroughly independent.

No matter how dusty the trails, Mr. Sprague seems determined to run down every doubt that has been raised about each of these cases over the years. "There's no halfway part in this thing," he said. "It's either got to be done thoroughly or you don't do it."

That seems right to us. There is too much dirt on the table—the C.I.A. involvement with the Mafia in efforts to kill Fidel Castro and the F.B.I.'s obsessional harassment of Dr. King, for example—for the doubts to be ignored any longer. As painful and often repetitive as the new

11/26/76