

Did Congressional Call to Reopen JFK Probe Bring Assassins Back?

Rep. Henry Gonzalez recently introduced legislation demanding a congressional probe of the assassination of America's political leaders.

A week later, on a lonely stretch of highway, a sniper's bullet crashed into his station wagon. Gonzalez was unhurt.

Were the two acts related? Gonzalez and authorities can only speculate. The San Antonio Democratic congressman told police the shooting could have been an accident — a stray bullet fired by a hunter.

AT ANY RATE, Gonzalez narrowly escaped being added to the list of "collateral" mystery deaths that have become following scores of persons who have become involved in various ways in the investigation of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Gonzalez' House Resolution 284 called for an investigation and study of the circumstances surrounding the deaths of John Kennedy, Sen. Robert F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King and the attempted assassination of Alabama Gov. George Wallace. The resolution called for the probe to be made by a seven-member select committee of the House appointed by Speaker Carl Albert.

But Gonzalez has a personal interest in the John Kennedy assassination. A liberal and friend of the late President, Gonzalez was riding in the motorcade in Dealey Plaza when the shots were fired that killed the President.

THE CONGRESSMAN was at Parkland Hospital as the grief of the President's death was felt.

"I saw how frail all human glory is when I looked at Mrs. Kennedy sitting alone in the hallway of Parkland Hospital just outside

Trauma Room 1," Gonzalez said in an interview with Texas newspaper editor Penn Jones Jr.

"She looked so pitiful, like a cornered little rabbit."

Gonzalez two years ago first expressed to TATTLER his interest in exploring a new investigation into the John Kennedy assassination.

In the midst of the Watergate probe, Gonzalez revealed how he sought unsuccessfully to get the CIA to reveal the whereabouts of certain of its former agents on the day Kennedy was killed. Some of those agents were linked to the burglary of the Watergate complex.

SINCE THEN, as more revelations turn up suggesting government intelligence was involved in political assassinations, Gonzalez has become more involved in seeking a new investigation.

"I am not going to say that the CIA itself was directly involved, but if there exists even a small possibility that CIA agents or individuals connected with the agency were involved, then that possibility should be thoroughly investigated because such individuals would be in a position to have carried out the assassination of the President," the congressman said in a recent interview.

He noted that the "nation's psyche has been traumatized by a series of almost unbelievable events, beginning in 1963 with the assassination."

Congress, he said, has so far failed to assume its moral obligation to remove the trauma facing the American people.

GONZALEZ' RESOLUTION would give the

House committee the power to subpoena witnesses and to hold hearings anywhere in the United States.

In a statement accompanying his resolution, the congressman said:

"I have introduced this resolution after much consideration — after receiving for more than a year material from committees and organizations involved in the study of the assassinations and independent researchers — scholars, journalists, pathologists and others in forensic medicine — which I feel warrants our attention.

"There are questions," he added, "to be resolved regarding all of the assassinations. I was at Dallas the day the President was murdered and I suspended judgment on the questions that arose then and shortly thereafter until Watergate revealed possibilities heretofore not considered.

"The American people must find out," Gonzalez added, "what Lee Harvey Oswald carried to his grave before he had his day in court..."

ONE THING GONZALEZ wants to determine is whether the President's death was in retaliation to the Bay of Pigs invasion against Castro's Cuba and whether Oswald's killer, Jack Ruby, was connected with such a plot. Ruby died in jail of cancer in 1965.

Gonzalez said he believes reason exists to subpoena E. Howard Hunt and Charles W. Colson. He noted that Colson telephoned Hunt, a Watergate burglar, to order him immediately to Milwaukee to break into Arthur Bremer's apartment after Governor Wallace was shot down and paralyzed on a Maryland parking lot. Bremer has been convicted of trying to kill Wallace.

The probable sniper's bullet hole was found



REP. HENRY GONZALEZ

in the left side of Gonzalez' auto.

The shooting occurred while Gonzalez and his wife were returning to San Antonio.

They heard "what sounded like a heavy rock striking the car."

The slug wasn't found, but it appeared to have come from a high-powered rifle, possibly a 30.30 caliber, police said.

Gonzalez admitted there existed some "emotional feelings" concerning him, but he did not ask for police protection.