

Cornell Professor Is Named as Assassinations Panel Counsel

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WASHINGTON, June 20—G. Robert Blakey, a professor at Cornell University Law School who is a proponent of the use of wiretapping in the control of organized crime, was named today to be chief counsel and staff director of the House Select Committee on Assassination.

Mr. Blakey's selection seems to assure that the committee's investigation into the deaths of President Kennedy and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. will remain alive for perhaps two more years.

"Two years is about the limit of my leash from Cornell," Mr. Blakey said at a news conference this afternoon, elaborating on the fact that he will be taking a leave of absence from Cornell and, he said, will be taking a pay cut to assume the \$47,500-a-year job with the panel.

The embattled committee, which is headed by Representative Louis Stokes,

Democrat of Ohio, the third chairman in the past nine months, has been on the verge of collapse several times because of internal controversies, one of which led to the resignation of the former chief counsel, Richard Sprague.

Regarded as Conservative

Mr. Blakey, who is 41 years old, is widely regarded as politically conservative. He was one of 115 persons considered for the post after Mr. Sprague's resignation, and one of 13 who were finally interviewed by the committee in what Mr. Stokes called an "exhaustive search."

He was at least the third person offered the position. Former Supreme Court Justice Arthur J. Goldberg and the former Watergate special prosecutor, Archibald Cox, each declined the job within the past two months. Mr. Blakey said that he initially refused the post, then reconsidered.

Mr. Stokes used the news conference

to announce that the committee members had resolved to maintain strict confidentiality about the course of the investigations and that all questions put to the members and staff would be answered with "no comment until the investigation process has been completed."

Mr. Blakey's background is firmly rooted in the study of organized crime, beginning in 1960 when, having just graduated from the University of Notre Dame Law School, he joined the Justice Department's organized crime and racketeering section of the criminal division. He served as a consultant to a number of organized crime and wiretapping commissions and now is director of the Cornell Institute on Organized Crime, which trains prosecutors in investigating organized crime.

However, Mr. Blakey said his selection did not indicate that the assassinations inquiry was proceeding toward an organized crime conclusion.