

House Assassination Panel Cuts Budget by Over Half for Year

WASHINGTON, March 21 (UPI) — Speaker Thomas P. O'Neill Jr. said today that the House Assassination Committee had scaled down its budget estimate for the rest of this year from the original \$6.5 million to \$2.5 million.

Mr. O'Neill commented after meeting in closed session with the panel's chairman, Representative Louis Stokes, Democrat of Ohio, its ranking Democrat, Representative Richardson Preyer, Democrat of North Carolina, and Delegate Walter Fauntroy of the District of Columbia.

The panel must get new legislative life before March 31 to continue investigations started last year into the killings of President Kennedy and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The committee said last year that it would need a budget of \$13 million over two years to do an adequate job, a figure that drew heavy opposition from House members.

NY TIMES 3/22/77