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U.S. REP. HENRY GONZALEZ ASKS CONGRESS TO STUDY ASSASSINATIONS

SELECT COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ASSASSINATIONS AND ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATIONS

(Mr. GONZALEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for a minute and to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous matter.)

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a House resolution calling for you to name seven Members of the House to a select committee, one of whom you shall designate as chairman, to conduct an investigation and study of the circumstances surrounding the deaths of John F. Kennedy, Robert F. Kennedy, and Martin Luther King, and the attempted assassination of George Wallace.

Under the terms of the resolution the committee is authorized and directed to conduct a full and complete investigation and study of the circumstances surrounding the deaths of these men—a President of the United States, a U.S. Senator seeking the Presidency, a civil rights leader of international prominence, and the attempted murder of the Alabama Governor as he was seeking the Presidency.

For the purpose of carrying out this resolution the committee, or any subcommittee thereof authorized by the committee to hold hearings, is authorized to sit and act during the present Congress at such times and places within the United States, including any Commonwealth or possession thereof, whether the House is in session, has recessed, or has adjourned, to hold hearings, and to require, by subpoena or otherwise, the attendance and testimony of such witnesses and the production of such books, records, correspondence, memorandums, papers, and documents, at it deems necessary; except that neither the committee nor any subcommittee thereof may sit while the House is meeting unless special leave to sit shall have been obtained from the House. Subpenas may be issued under the signature of the chairman of the committee or any member of the committee designated by him.

and may be served by any person designated by such chairman or member.

The committee, under the terms of this resolution, shall report to the House as soon as practicable during the present Congress the results of its investigation and study, together with such recommendations as it deems advisable. Any such report which is made when the House is not in session shall be filed with the Clerk of the House.

Mr. Speaker, I have introduced this resolution after much consideration. It has not been a decision I have made hastily.

It is time that we study all this in retrospect, and with calmness and dispassion.

There are questions to be resolved. I was at Dallas the day that President Kennedy was killed, and I suspended judgment on the questions that arose then and shortly thereafter until Watergate, August 1973, revealed possibilities heretofore considered not possible.

I feel there is a congressional responsibility, and make no mistake about it, there is a great mass of American people and citizens in the world who are greatly concerned. And, I believe that since the national psyche has been traumatized by all of these shocking crimes there is a clear and impelling responsibility for the Congress to discharge.

Congress has never before studied the assassination of any President, but as the elected representatives of the people, I feel that it is clearly our responsibility to do so if there is any indication or reason to suspect that the truth of the circumstances resulting in the murder of a President have not been revealed, and any parties responsible and not previously known have not yet been brought to justice.

No similar period—the assassination of other nationally politically prominent people—has ever followed the deaths of the other assassinated American Presidents prior to John F. Kennedy, and there is a large body of knowledge done by committees and organizations involved in the study of the assassinations

and independent researchers—scholars, journalists, pathologists, and others in forensic medicine—which warrants our attention and at least our attempt to verify.

During the past several months I have become increasingly sensitive to the need to conduct such an investigation because I have become a rallying point for people from throughout the country who are unsatisfied with the findings of the Warren Commission about the death of President Kennedy.

There has long been a need for further study of this death alone because, as the Gallup poll taken in January 1967 revealed, some 64 percent of the American public believed that more than one man was involved in the assassination.

Study of this assassination or any of the others is not something which I alone, or even one small select committee can do. It will take support of a majority of this legislative body, and I hereby call for that support.

We must settle for once and for all in the interest of the welfare of our country and the future of its people the truth of what happened at Dallas on November 22, 1963 and what Lee Harvey Oswald carried to his grave before he had his day in court, and perhaps what Oswald did not know.

We must find out if the President's death was in retaliation to the Bay of Pigs invasion against Cuba, and what connection did Oswald's murderer, Jack Ruby, also dead, have with all of this.

We must find out if there is any connection with the deaths of Senator Robert Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King, and why there is any reason for cases of their two assassins to be back in the courts.

There is reason to subpoena E. Howard Hunt and Charles W. Colson, the Nixon assistant, who, according to the Washington Post, called Hunt following the attempted assassination of Governor Wallace to order him immediately to Milwaukee and to break into the apartment of Wallace's suspected assailant.

There are many more disquieting questions to be resolved—so many as to boggle the mind—but they must be answered—with calmness, objectivity, dispassion, and fairness.

The above is the statement of Congressman Gonzalez on introducing House Resolution 204 which has been referred to the House Rules Committee.