

Gonzalez Resignation Is Accepted

WASHINGTON, March 8 (AP)—The House accepted today, by a vote of 296 to 100, the resignation of Representative Henry B. Gonzalez, Democrat of Texas, as chairman of the assassinations committee despite an objection that it first should discuss his charges against Richard A. Sprague, the committee's chief counsel.

Representative Robert E. Bauman, Republican of Maryland, objected to putting the resignation to a vote, saying there first should be a full discussion of Mr. Gonzalez's charges that Mr. Sprague refused to cut costs as the chairman had ordered.

But House leaders forced the resignation question to a vote, with Representative Jim Wright of Texas, the majority leader, telling the members that the only issue at the moment was whether to accept the chairman's resignation.

Representative John B. Anderson, Republican of Illinois, told Mr. Bauman that the time for discussing Mr. Gonzalez's charges against Mr. Sprague would be at the end of the month, when the House has to decide whether to con-

tinue the investigation of the assassinations of President Kennedy and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Representative Thomas P. O'Neill Jr. of Massachusetts, the House Speaker, said before asking the members to vote on Mr. Gonzalez's resignation that he would name Representative Louis Stokes, Democrat of Ohio, as chairman of the committee.

Mr. Stokes already is a member of the committee. Its investigation has been blocked by a bitter dispute between Mr. Gonzalez and Mr. Sprague.

Mr. O'Neill held off more than a week after Mr. Gonzalez submitted his resignation. The Speaker had hoped the dispute could be resolved with the Texas Democrat remaining as chairman of the committee.

However, Mr. O'Neill finally gave up that effort, and said he would accede to Mr. Gonzalez's desire to resign from the committee.

The acting chairman and the chief counsel of the committee say they oppose calling James Earl Ray, Dr. King's convicted murderer, for quick hearings on the 1968 assassination of Dr. King.

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