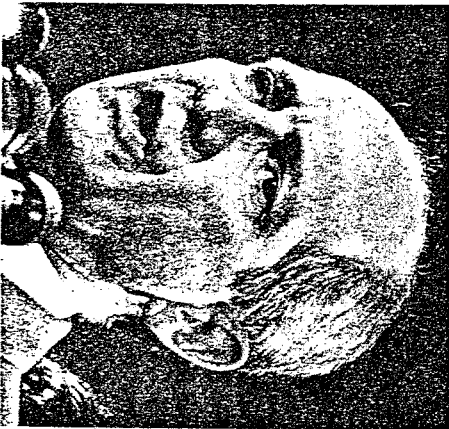


to testify against a provision in Carter's reorganization bill—which calls for presidential plans to go into effect unless either the Senate or the House vetoes them. Chairman Jack Brooks



Brooks: Who'll bear witness?

Maccoby regularly records the sessions, evaluates the candidates' personalities and advises on the final choice. In this case, winning or losing will all depend on how you play the game.

Mum's the word

Some things never seem to change with administrations. News reports of CIA payoffs to foreign leaders have sparked official anger toward the press and raised the specter of renewed attempts to control the flow of sensitive information. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance reportedly believes that the Washington Post picked the morning of his arrival in Jordan to headline King Hussein's involvement because the timing would get the maximum attention. American officials privately attack the Post for jeopardizing

amenable to a Mideast settlement.

They will try the carrot first—increased foreign aid. If that fails, the stick of aid cutbacks may be applied. The recent cancellation of Ford's promise of concussion bombs was made not only on merits, but served as a warning. Carter, it is said, is convinced that Mideast peace is urgently necessary and, to achieve it, Israel will have to withdraw virtually all the way back to the pre-1967 borders.

Seventies

Killing the committee

When the House of Representatives voted on February 2 to give two more months of life to its beleaguered select committee investigating the assassinations of

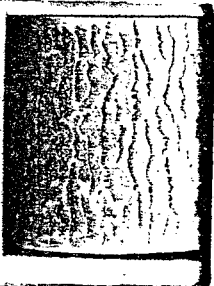
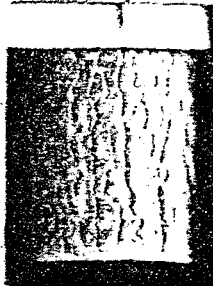
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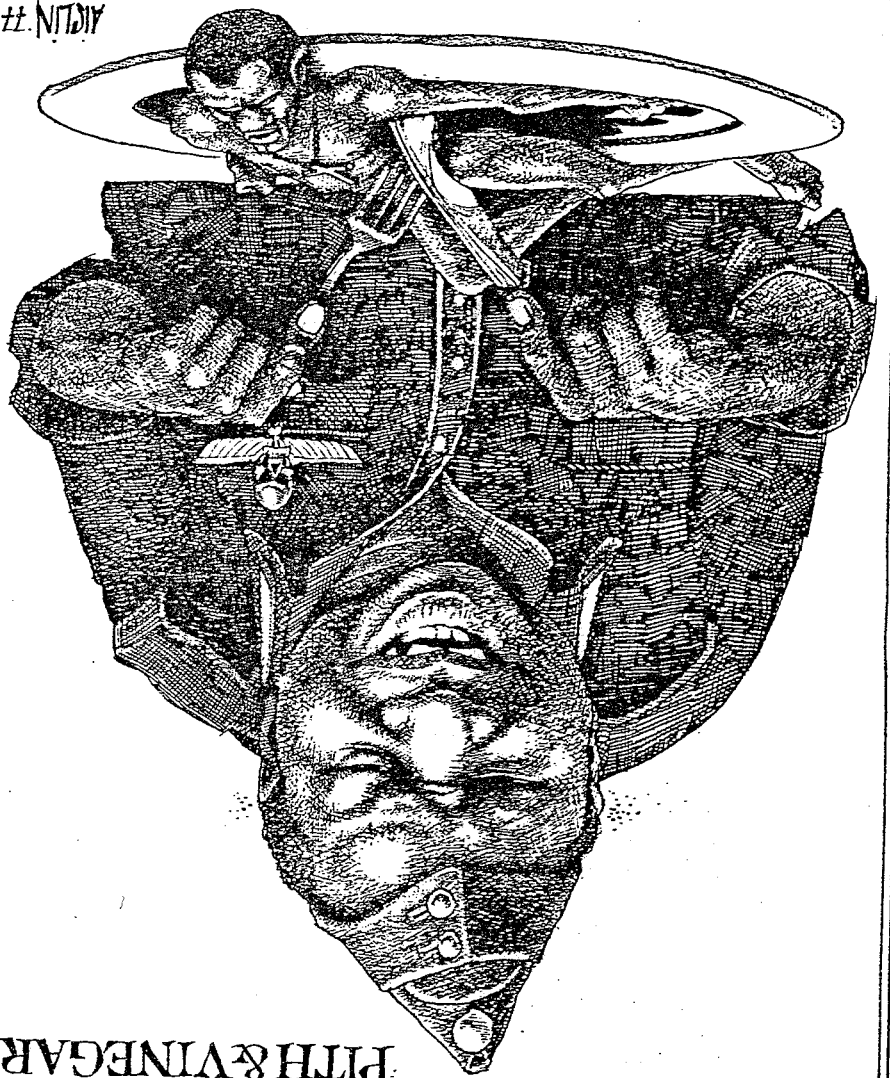
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Henry Falicoff

New Times
3/18/77



77. NITBY



PITH & VINEGAR

President Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr., many felt that the House was merely searching for an easy way to ease the committee out of existence. House Speaker Tip O'Neill went so far as to tell a Washington television audience on February 25 that, unless the committee produced proof of conspiracy by March 31, "the committee isn't going to be continued." Under the circumstances, this pronouncement by O'Neill was tantamount to a death sentence. What began with the unilateral firing of chief counsel Richard A. Sprague by chairman Henry B. Gonzalez (a move blocked by the other 11 committee members) has grown into a running feud between the chairman and his committee, in which the Sprague matter has almost become a side issue. The eccentric Gonzalez, in defiance of the rest of the committee, has crippled the investigative capability of the staff, shutting off their access to FBI, CIA and Secret Service files and to long-distance telephone lines. At the last committee meeting, Gonzalez publicly accused committee member

Richardson Preyer (Dem.—N.C.), one of the most respected members of the House, of conspiring to take over the chairmanship. The committee adjourned over Gonzalez' objection and filed out of the chamber, leaving Gonzalez to rail against Sprague and the committee to an astonished press corps. Finally, on March 2, Gonzalez offered his resignation as chairman, but O'Neill for the time being declined to submit the resignation to the House for approval. Congress is acutely aware that it will be accused of covering up if the current probe is shut down. And it most certainly will inspire a backlash on the part of the Black Caucus, which was promised a reopening of the King case by the House leadership. One conceivable face-saving scenario on the Kennedy case might be for the House to turn the entire matter over to the Senate Intelligence Committee which, *New Times* has confirmed, has quietly resurrected its investigation of the Kennedy assassination under the direction of Senator Gary Hart (Dem.—Colo.).

Fly me to the moon

Neil Armstrong's trip to the moon was as much a fantasy as Jules Verne's. So says Bill Kaysing, formerly a technical writer for the Apollo project and author of an 87-page booklet that debunks the Giant Step for Mankind as myth: our astronauts, Kaysing claims, never did walk on the moon, they simply bounced around on a bit of sand in a nuclear testing site, an hour's drive from Las Vegas. And those incredible lunar panoramas were nothing more than Stanley Kubrick backdrops; the spine-tingling module splashdown, airdrops from a large plane

Such a move would hardly warm the hearts of critics, since the limited investigation conducted by the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence under Hart and Senator Richard Schweiker (Rep.—Penn.) last year failed to review the key finding of the Warren Commission: that Lee Harvey Oswald had indeed killed the president. No physical evidence was examined. The Schweiker-Hart report was extremely critical of the FBI's investigation of the assassination and found that relevant evidence dealing with CIA plots against Castro never found its way to the Warren Commission. But the Senate report leaned heavily toward an alleged Castro connection to Oswald while ignoring or glossing over evidence of Oswald links to American intelligence agencies. Evidence pointing toward involvement in the assassination by Cuban exiles, organized crime or other domestic groups was similarly given short shrift. Critics also pointed out that to speculate about the possible forces behind the assassination without attempting to resolve the question of Oswald's guilt represented a clear case of putting the carriage before the horse. The fact that Hart is directing the new Senate probe does not instill confidence that the new investigation will be any more thorough than the last. Despite the fact that the Senate committee's findings obviously spread a dark shadow over the entire Warren Commission investigation, Hart was widely quoted as being satisfied that Oswald had acted alone. He contended that the question still to be resolved was not whether he did it but rather why he did it. With one congressional committee seemingly dead, barring a miracle, and with another of dubious intent gearing up, it seems more and more likely that the answers in the King and Kennedy cases will be a long time coming. —Jerry Pollicoff