

HENRY B. GONZALEZ
20TH DISTRICT, TEXAS
BEXAR COUNTY

2312 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
202-225-3236

COMMITTEES:
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SBA OVERSIGHT AND MINORITY ENTERPRISE
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AND FINANCE
CONSUMER AFFAIRS
GENERAL OVERSIGHT AND RENEGOTIATION
TASK FORCE ON THE AUTO INDUSTRY

(SELECT) ON MISSING IN
SOUTHEAST ASIA

WHIP:
TEXAS DEMOCRATIC DELEGATION,
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

March 13, 1976

FILE REF. B13a

STAFF:
GAIL J. BEAGLE
KELSAY R. MEEK
MRS. BONNIE CALDWELL
RAYMOND I. CANTU
ELLA M. WONG
MRS. LORRAINE G. INMAN
ARLETT L. HARTIE
ELOY AGUILAR
GARY INMAN
MRS. LINDA S. PATTON
MRS. ADELAIDA B. HERNANDEZ
MRS. EDYTH BAISH
MRS. MILDRED DONAHUE

HOME OFFICE:
B-124 FEDERAL BUILDING
727 E. DURANGO STREET
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78206
512-225-5511, EXT. 4395
OR 512-223-8851

MRS. LUZ G. TAMEZ
MRS. CORA FAYE CLAYTON
MRS. MARY JESSIE ROQUE
JESSE WONG

Mr. Harold Weisburg
Route 8
Frederick, Maryland 21701

Dear Mr. Weisburg:

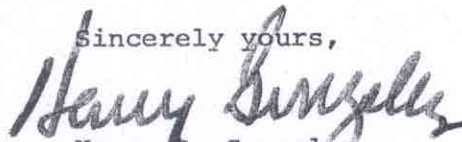
Enclosed are copies of correspondence I have recently had with Congressman Ray Madden, the chairman of the House Rules Committee.

It seems that the Chairman in almost a flippant fashion has "polled" the committee and decided that because of some fear that "these things should not be brought up in this election year" that they will not consider H. Res. 204 and similar legislation this year.

I am, of course, not at all satisfied with such procedure, and am attempting to get a formal hearing of my proposal. Any further help that you can give will, of course, be appreciated.

With every good wish, I remain

Sincerely yours,



Henry B. Gonzalez,
Member of Congress

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WHIP:
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

March 12, 1976

FILE REF.: B13a

STAFF:
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KELSAY R. MEEK
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ELLA M. WONG
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JESSE WONG

The Honorable Ray Madden, Chairman
House Rules Committee
2409 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Ray:

I have never been so disappointed in the performance of a congressional committee as when you and your assistant the other day told me of the manner in which you decided that resolutions, introduced by Congressman Downey and *ML* in respect to studying political assassinations, should not be brought up this year.

With all due respect, I do not think that the membership of the committee has been properly consulted, and am therefore making one more and a final request that H. Res. 204 be given the decency of a formal discussion by the House Rules Committee.

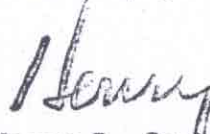
Since there has been some problem at the Committee in respect to the location of my letter to you of February 2, 1976, I am again enclosing a copy of it. There are now 64 co-sponsors of H. Res. 204. The latest co-sponsor is The Honorable Eligio de la Garza.

If I do not hear from you by this Thursday, March 18, I will assume that it is your intention not to consider the matter.

The Honorable Ray Madden
March 12, 1976
Page 2

With best wishes and hoping to hear from you soon, I remain

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Henry".

Henry B. Gonzalez,
Member of Congress

Enclosure - 1†

February 2, 1976

B13a/lgl

The Honorable Ray Madden
Chairman
House Rules Committee
2409 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is in further reference to our recent conversation regarding consideration of H. Res. 204.

On February 19, it will have been one year since I introduced H. Res. 204, a House simple resolution which, if passed by the House, would establish in this body a select committee for the purpose of studying the circumstances surrounding the deaths of President John F. Kennedy, U.S. Senator Robert F. Kennedy, and Dr. Martin Luther King, and the attempted assassination of Governor George C. Wallace.

Since February 19, 1975, when I authored and introduced this proposal alone, much has happened to give validity to such a congressional investigation. As a result, there are now 54 co-sponsors of my proposal. I am enclosing a copy of a speech which list the names of 53 of these co-sponsors. The 54th co-sponsor is our colleague, Max Baucus of Montana.

Support of the proposal came from Governor Wallace several months ago, and because of recent revelations about FBI harrassment of Dr. King, just prior to his death, Mrs. King and others have asked for an investigation of his death.

As I have said from the beginning of my effort to get such a congressional investigation underway of political assassinations, the purpose of my proposal is not simply to find out who else, if anyone, was involved in these murders of national leaders. The purpose is much greater than simply that.

Mr. Ray Madden
Page Two

February 2, 1976

While I do not yet espouse any particular theory as to who else, except the accused or convicted assassins, was involved or connected with all of these deaths and the attempt on Wallace, I do see a very significant way in which these terrible incidents are linked. They are linked by the fact that each of these incidents eliminated entirely, or gravely crippled, a leader of national significance. In the case of President John F. Kennedy, Senator Robert F. Kennedy, and Governor Wallace, the deaths and the crippling of Wallace denied to the American people options which they must have in the maintaining of a free electoral system.

While Dr. King was not serving in an elective office, he was a political leader of national significance not only among civil rights activists, but increasingly among peace and labor groups.

We can ill afford, if we wish to preserve our present form of government, to allow a similar series of events from happening again. The series of events I am advocating that we study has greatly harmed the collective national psyche, and it is up to us, the elected representatives of the people, to assess this damage and to obtain answers to many questions about these events that have been obscured by various governmental agencies.

I'm sure that you are well aware of the many number of Americans engaged in independent study of the assassinations. These Americans constantly beseech me to continue in my efforts to get the congressional study underway. As a result, my office has become the depository for almost all of the significant articles and books about the assassinations, and of course, some of the less than significant.

Some of the supporters of the investigation have written to me recently of their hope that the investigation will get underway right away because they are concerned that there is great danger in store for the Democratic nominee for President, whoever he turns out to be. I hope very much that these fears do not turn out to have a basis in fact.

Now is the time during the year of our country's 200th birthday, to ascertain why we had a decade of political assassination in our country — a decade unlike any other in the history of our country.

I, therefore, respectfully request that the Committee on Rules schedule consideration of H. Res. 204, and subsequent reintroductions of the proposal, House Resolutions 455, 456, 593, 721, and 873, as quickly as is possible.

With warmest regards, I remain

Sincerely yours,

Henry B. Gonzalez, M.C.

3 Encls.

LETTERS

3
the village VOICE June 28, 1976

Fools on the Hill

Dear Editor:

Here's to applaud the tone and intent of the Cockburn-Ridgeway expose of exploitative and discriminatory practices by the offices of the U.S. Congress [Voice, June 7]. But I demur when they depict female Congressional staffers as "indentured servants."

Ms. Ray's personal history notwithstanding, women on the Hill tend to be well-educated and highly skilled. As such, they enjoy professional options not available to most women. Since they are so bright, educated, and able, why have they not responded to such evident hiring and salary disparities? I suspect a relevance to Mr. Erlichman's comment later in the same issue: that is, that "one stays partly because of inertia of the ego. It's an enormously seductive place to be, with all kinds of perks, ego and vanity feeding. . . ."

If the sisters don't want to be categorized as sex objects and resent systematic discrimination, they best be about deindenturing and organizing themselves and reorganizing the Congress!

—Harriet Barlow

Chevy Chase, Maryland

against 204 on March 31, may be persuaded by the JFK Report to change their votes. We urge Voice readers to write Bolling and Sisk in care of Rules Committee, House of Representatives, Suite H313, Washington, D.C. 20515.

—Alfred Weber

Citizens Campaign for a
Congressional Inquiry Into
Political Assassinations

All the President's Menace

Dear Editor:

In his article on the JFK assassination [Voice, June 21], Dick Russell neglects to mention the most comprehensive and sensible measure in Congress mandating an inquiry into political assassinations. That is H.Res. 204, introduced by Congressman Henry B. Gonzalez of Texas, and establishing a House select committee to reinvestigate the deaths of John F. Kennedy, Robert Kennedy, Martin Luther King, and the attempt against George Wallace. H.Res. 204 now has 64 co-sponsors in the House, ranging from Pete McCloskey to John Conyers to the majority of the New York City delegation. Like the Downing resolution, H.Res. 204 too received a 7-to-7 tie vote before the Rules Committee on March 31.

The 1968 National Commission on the Causes and Prevention of Violence found that the United States ranked fifth out of 87 nations in assassinations and assassination plots for the 20-year period 1948-67, led only by Korea, Cuba, Iran, and Morocco. H.Res. 204 would permit Congress to deeply question why our political system has grown so violent and unstable. There is mounting evidence that the intelligence community may have been wittingly or unwittingly involved in one or more of these deaths. These are matters which require a congressional committee, armed with subpoena power. The Watergate experience seemed to demonstrate that congressional committees can perform successfully—if within limits—in this complex area. It is doubtful that healthy reform in U.S. domestic politics will occur in the absence of a full and public airing of the facts and possible cover-ups behind these deaths.

Gonzalez, who was in the Kennedy motorcade in 1963, plans to seek another Rules Committee vote immediately after the publication of the Schweiker-Hart Report on the JFK assassination. Representatives Richard Bolling of Missouri and B.F. Sisk of California, both of whom voted