

Questions Needed, JFK Probers Say

Special to The Journal

Stevens Point, Wis. — Responsible criticism of investigations into the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. is something that was needed at the time of the slayings, according to speakers at a five day symposium at the University of Wisconsin — Stevens Point.

"This is not a 'who killed Cock Robin' matter," said Harold Weisberg, of Frederick, Md., one of the most prolific authors on both the King and Kennedy deaths.

David Wrone, history professor at UW — Stevens Point, said criticism malfunctioned in the Kennedy assassination case after the release of the Warren Commission report. The left wing element in the United States, with a tradition of "standing up and warning of disasters" has "muddled the public mind and done it unwittingly," he said.

Wrone said circumstances surrounding Kennedy's assassination were as confused and cloudy as they were when it happened 13 years ago. He said he rejected the Warren report that ruled out conspiracy and blamed Lee Harvey Oswald for acting alone.

Wrone said his conclusions were based on scholarship and research, while the commission got the majority of its support from the national press, bureaucrats and educators.

James Lesar, a Washington attorney, said James Earl Ray's conviction of King's assassination involved a perversion of justice and a denial of basic constitutional rights.

He charged that Ray's first two attorneys had entered into contracts with an author to provide information for a book and needed the accused killer to plead guilty.

Weisberg said he could prove that Ray was having a tire fixed when King was

shot, and said that the evidence in the case was planted.

All of the speakers at the symposium that ended Saturday offered pieces of evidence to argue that neither Oswald nor Ray were killers. Weisberg also said he would work with UW — Stevens Point to establish a permanent archive for copies of his own data on the assassinations.