

CITIZENS CAMPAIGN FOR A CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY INTO POLITICAL ASSASSINATIONS (CCCIPA)

September 30, 1976

Mr. Howard Lee
Office of Cong. Walter E. Fauntroy
House Select Committee on Assassinations
326 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Lee:

It was a pleasure to meet with you in Washington on Tuesday.

You asked that we furnish you with background information on the Citizens Campaign for a Congressional Inquiry into Political Assassinations (CCCIPA). CCCIPA is an unincorporated membership association with headquarters in New York City. It has a nationwide membership, with members in 26 states from Massachusetts to California. Its members include university students, professionals, housewives, university professors, attorneys, bankers, and a state district court judge. CCCIPA's membership also includes published authors in the assassination field: Prof. Richard H. Popkin (THE SECOND OSWALD, Avon Books), Paul Hoch (THE ASSASSINATIONS, Random House), and myself, Alfred Webre (THE AGE OF CATAclysm, Berkley Medallion). CCCIPA's goals are generally described in the enclosed direct mail solicitation flyer. We are a citizens group seeking a thorough and open investigation of political assassinations in the U.S.

CCCIPA's Committee of Support includes Rev. Henry Sturtevant, vicar of St. Clement's Church in New York City, Stanley Sheinbaum of Los Angeles, Martin Sostre of New York City, and Rev. Daniel Berrigan of New York City. CCCIPA's funding is raised through membership contributions. Its funds go toward printing and mailing costs, telephone bills, and travel expenses on behalf of the Campaign. We have recently engaged the pro bono services of BPH International, a fund raising firm specializing in non-profit organizations. BPH has in the past raised funds for the Environmental Defense Fund, the Suburban Action Institute, Attica Defense Fund, and the Gainesville Eight Trial. I would be glad to make our organization's membership list and financial records available for your inspection.

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Mr. Howard Lee

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CCCIPA draws on its membership, and on a variety of assassination researchers and groups in its work. It maintains contact or working relationships with such groups around the U.S. as the Action/Research Group on Assassinations in New York City, the Assassination Information Bureau in Boston, the Wisconsin Assassination Information Bureau in Milwaukee, the Committee to Investigate Political Assassinations in Los Angeles, and The Continuing Inquiry in Midlothian, Texas.. Our organization will be opening discussions in New York next week with representatives of the Assassination Information Bureau, exploring the ways by which citizen and researcher groups might best coordinate to be of aid to the Committee in its deliberations.

We hope this statement is sufficiently informative about our organization, and would be happy to supply any further information you might find of use. We trust that the Committee will make use of the resources and viewpoint that we can bring. It is our sincere desire to be of aid to it, and wherever possible to facilitate its work.

with all good wishes.


ALFRED WEBRE
For CCCIPA

CITIZENS CAMPAIGN FOR A CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY INTO POLITICAL ASSASSINATIONS (CCCIPA)

The Citizen's Campaign for a Congressional Inquiry into Political Assassinations (CCCIPA) is an organized, grass-roots citizen's lobby directed at building a public constituency for a Congressional select committee reinvestigation of the assassinations of John F. Kennedy, Robert F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King, and the attempt on George Wallace. Its principal legislative focus is H. Res. 204, introduced by Cong. Henry B. Gonzalez of Texas. The CCCIPA is a citizen's group and is not connected with any elected officeholder or political campaign.

CCCIPA's functions are:

- I. Citizen Education and Mobilization
 - a. Identify key Congresspersons on H. Res. 204
 - b. Educate constituencies on the facts of the assassinations--clubs, churches, private organizations, groups, individual voters
 - c. Organize constituency lobbying efforts directed at individual Congressmen and committees on H. Res. 204, and at political candidates

These strategies have been employed effectively by such public-interest lobbies as the Indochina Peace Campaign.

- II. Media and Public Events
 - a. Generate media coverage of the assassinations issue in general, and of the politics of H. Res. 204
 - b. Organize well-publicized teach-ins on the assassinations in cities and communities
 - c. Plan public events, such as a Citizen's March on the House of Representatives

The goal of the Citizen's Campaign is passage of H. Res. 204, and a thorough Select Committee reinvestigation of these assassinations. We have good reason to believe that the aggressive lobbying strategy in Congress directed against passage of H. Res. 204 can be defeated. Our judgment is that there is wide latent interest in the American population for reinvestigation which can be activated if the issues

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are raised in a professional, well-organized way. The key to our success--as in any citizen's campaign--lies in the energies and effort of concerned citizens such as yourself. CCCIPA has gathered together spokespersons, scholars, and organizations from a wide spectrum of political persuasions. With your involved effort, we could make passage of H. Res. 204 a reality.

CCCIPA espouses no particular theory of the assassinations, only that a complete Congressional reinvestigation is necessary and vital to our political health. Political assassinations have in fact been major destabilizers of American politics in the 1960s and 70s. The 1968 National Commission on the Causes and Prevention of Violence found that the United States was fifth (5th) highest out of eighty-four (84) nations studied for assassinations and assassination plots in the twenty-year period 1948-67. Only Cuba, Korea, Iran and Morocco ranked ahead of the U.S. in political violence. The passage of H. Res. 204 would permit our Congress to question deeply why our political system has grown so violent and unstable. Healthy political reform in the American system is unlikely to occur in the absence of a full and public airing of the facts and possible cover-ups behind these assassinations.

There are deep factual inconsistencies in the official versions of each of the assassinations. These can only be resolved by a Congressional Select Committee, armed with sufficient resources and with subpoena power. Fully four (4) out of five (5) Americans--according to Cambridge Survey Research--disbelieve the findings of the Warren Commission, of which Gerald R. Ford was an active member. Yet the 1975 Rockefeller Commission Report unquestioningly reaffirmed the earlier official version of the John F. Kennedy assassination. The political corruption unearthed in Watergate and in later Senate Intelligence Committee hearings has taught us to be skeptical of unilateral official statements. The continued darkness surrounding these central acts of political violence affects us all, and affects our system as a whole.

Whatever your political persuasion, we hope you will support this attempt to restore political health.



Alfred Webre

For CCCIPA

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CITIZENS CAMPAIGN FOR A CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY INTO POLITICAL ASSASSINATIONS [CCCIPA]

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

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| Cong. Thomas N. Downing (D.-Va.) (Chairman) 2135 Rayburn House Office Building | 202-225-4261 |
| Cong. Henry B. Gonzalez (D.-Tex.) 2312 Rayburn H.O.B. | 3236 |
| Cong. Richardson Preyer (D.-N.C.) 403 Cannon H.O.B. | 3065 |
| Cong. Louis Stokes (D.-Ohio) 303 Cannon H.O.B. | 7032 |
| Cong. Walter E. Fauntroy (D.-D.C.) 326 Cannon H.O.B. | 8050 |
| Cong. Yvonne B. Burke (D.-Calif.) 336 Cannon H.O.B. | 7084 |
| Cong. Christopher J. Dodd (D.-Conn.) 429 Cannon H.O.B. | 2076 |
| Cong. Harold E. Ford (D.-Tenn.) 1609 Longworth H.O.B. | 3265 |
| Cong. Samuel L. Devine (R.-Ohio) 2206 Rayburn H.O.B. | 5355 |
| Cong. Charles Thone (R.-Neb.) 1524 Longworth H.O.B. | 4806 |
| Cong. Stewart B. McKinney (R.-Conn.) 504 Cannon H.O.B. | 5541 |
| Cong. Burt L. Talcott (R.-Calif.) 1536 Longworth H.O.B. | 2861 |

ALL ADDRESSES: Washington, D.C. 20515

CITIZENS CAMPAIGN FOR A CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY INTO POLITICAL ASSASSINATIONS (CCCIPA)



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 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 Webra
Citizens Campaign for a
Congressional Inquiry Into
Political Assassinations