

^{Hansen}
While in Los Angeles, I provided Thompson with full Rules Committee
Transcript - He thereafter wrote this article (This is a copy).
Ted Gando

JFK ASSASSINATION STUDY BURIED IN HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE BY SISK

Tom Thompson - May 7 Los Angeles Vanguard

The Los Angeles Vanguard recently received a verbatim transcript of the March 31, 1976 meeting of the House Rules Committee where the committee voted 9-6 to table resolutions that would have led to a re-opening of the John F. Kennedy assassination. Temporary defeat of the resolutions (H.R. 204) and (H.R. 423) authored by Rep. Henry Gonzales of Texas and Thomas Downing of Virginia and co-signed by more than 130 congresspeople) was engineered by Congressperson Burnie Sisk - (15th Congressional District, 1130 O Street, Rm 2001, Fresno, CA 93721.) Sisk's objections, as reflected by his testimony, included any and all attempts to arrive at the truth surrounding the assassination.

"I am totally opposed to this whole procedure. I will do anything I can to kill it. I will use any means at my command ethically to see there is never such a committee created. I think it is a most unfortunate situation."

Arguing in vain for his resolution, Rep. Gonzales noted that "the more than a decade of political assassinations has caused great harm to the collective psyche, has fostered great mistrust in our system of government, and fear in the minds of many people. There has never been in the history of this great nation a similar period in which so many national leaders have been eliminated by a bullet." Gonzales' resolution had sought the re-opening not only of the JFK case but the assassinations of Senator Robert F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King, and the attempted assassination of Alabama Governor George Wallace. The following conversation between Rep. Sisk and Congressperson Downing further illustrates Sisk's position on the right of the American public to know the entire story of the assassination.

Sisk: "I said if anyone could justify to me, or give me any really qualified reason for going back to this again, I would be willing to go along. But I don't know what we have got to gain, EVEN IF WE PROVED THAT OSWALD DID NOT EVEN SHOOT HIM. I still don't know what difference that is going to make now at this stage." (Editor's emphasis)

Downing: "The basic thing to be gotten out of that is to get the truth. I think the American public is entitled to it. Ted Gando, Chairman of the Assassination Information Committee, who provided the transcript, suggested that Sisk's attitude might change if he was under enough pressure from constituents to vote for re-opening the case. "Sisk's attitude is irresponsible. He has made it clear that regardless of the facts he will oppose any and all resolutions. At this point it is up to those who elected him to force him into acting responsibly." Both Gonzales and Downing have indicated that unless the matter is reconsidered by the rules committee they will bypass all committee action and attempt to take the issue directly to the floor of the house where the more than 130 co-sponsors of their resolution will have an opportunity to present their case.

Thanks for the Thompson squib, the second copy of your article and the NYTimes Klan clipping.

I did not know you have any Rules transcript. I know there are several. I am interested in them only for historical purposes if you can spare copies. Meaning a single copy of any transcript.

Please understand that I want this only for file purpose, that I could not begin to take time to read it now. This means please do not break your back. If you can do this, any time is fine. I can also return the copies after making copies for myself.

The same is true of the Slawson memo referred to in your article. In piecing it together there was an overlap. The extra piece is the reminder.

Slawsonk is, or was as of my last info, a law professor in L.A.

This would be a fine thing to read on a show you do out there.

When you send me an copy I'll make another and send it to a reporter friend out there who may, in time, find some way of using it.

Many tahnks,

copy of your newspaper clipping on abductions to business school
appears to have the same content as the copy of the notes in the
file. I am not sure if the notes are a copy of the newspaper clipping
or if the newspaper clipping is a copy of the notes. I am not sure.