

Jackson Appeals For Funding For Probe Of Assassinations

By JEROME WRIGHT

Rev. Jesse Jackson said yesterday whites should be just as concerned as blacks that all facts concerning the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. be brought forth, and called on citizens to urge Congress to continue funding for a select committee probing King's death and that of

former President John F. Kennedy.

In a live radio broadcast yesterday morning, carried in Memphis and Chicago, Jackson urged persons across the country to send telegrams to House Speaker Thomas 'Tip' O'Neill asking him to use his influence with representatives so that the House Select Committee on Assassinations will receive additional funding of \$790,000 to complete its investigation. The Congress is scheduled to consider the additional funding Thursday.

Officials said the committee, which has already spent more than \$5 million since it was born in 1976, will run out of funds Sept. 15.

Rep. Harold Ford of Memphis, a member of the committee, was scheduled to attend the press conference but did not appear.

Meanwhile, Jackson did not preclude the possibility of some type of FBI involvement in King's slaying.

"We know the FBI engaged in character assassination (against King). It remains to be seen if they engaged in physical assassination.

"Let us make it clear that the FBI spent more money and more manpower violating the constitutional rights of Dr. King than it did anybody or any group in the history of America.

"Hoover said the FBI's role was to view him (King) as if he was an espionage agent from another country. They had surveillance on him 24 hours day, always electronically tapped his phone, bugged his hotel rooms . . . that's very strong circumstantial evidence and so far the highest motive for the assassination."

During the broadcast at Olivet Baptist Church at 3084 Southern, police said a church member received a telephoned bomb threat. Doris Bolden told officers a caller said, "There's a bomb in your church." She said the caller repeated the sentence and hung up. Police searched the building but found nothing. The broadcast was not interrupted, officials said.

At a press conference later Jackson said, "Unless this committee is refunded the public will never know the full story. We

will be left with James Earl Ray and Lee Harvey Oswald as lone assassins. If this committee is denied refunding we will never be able to convince 82 per cent of the American people, who refuse to believe the official version, that this is anything but a continuation of the coverup."

About a week before the hearings, Jackson interviewed Ray at Brushy Mountain State Prison in Petros, Tenn., where Ray is serving a 99-year sentence for King's death. Afterward he said he had "profound doubt" that Ray killed King.

However, the minister said that after Ray's testimony before the committee questions still remain but, "I have less doubt now that Ray pulled the trigger." Still, he said he believes King's death was part of a conspiracy.

The Chicago minister and head of Operation PUSH (People United to Serve and Save Humanity), however, left little doubt that he was especially interested in facts surrounding King's death in Memphis on April 4, 1968.

"The long list of unanswered questions surrounding the King assassination and the tremendous suspicion that others, even the government itself, were involved continues to eat away at the moral fabric of our nation.

"It is in the national interest that these unanswered questions and suspicions be openly and totally dealt with to the satisfaction of reasonable and fair-minded people."

He also said all Memphians should be especially interested in the truth being revealed. "The people of Memphis should want to know if the Memphis Police Department was involved; if the (former Mayor Henry) Loeb administration was involved; if Dr. King's murder in Memphis was coincidental or planned to happen here."

Jackson said he was very impressed with the hearings and had special praise for several committee members, including Ford and Rep. Louis Stokes (D-Ohio) chairman of the committee.