

Assassination Inquiry: 'To Find the Truth'

To the Editor:

Ny Times 2-23-77

I would be giving approval to misstatements by George McMillan, an assassinologist, in an article entitled "Qualms About the House's Assassination Investigation" (Op-Ed Feb. 5), if I did not respond.

McMillan states, "It is not surprising that the day after the House committee's appropriation, its chairman, Representative Henry B. Gonzalez, announced what a headline called "New Evidence in J.F.K. Killing," only to admit when challenged that his evidence was "uncorroborated." I did not "admit" the evidence was uncorroborated; I clearly stated it, and not when challenged, as McMillan says.

Next, he states that none of the Warren Commission's conclusions have ever been impeached. The report of the United States Senate Select Committee to Study Governmental Operations states, among other things: "This evidence indicates that the investigation of the assassination was deficient and that facts which might have substantially affected the course of the investigation were not provided the

Warren Commission or those individuals within the F.B.I. and C.I.A., as well as other agencies of Government, who were charged with investigating the assassination."

As to the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Mr. McMillan correctly states that there were stipulated facts; what he does not state is that in the course of the plea proceedings Ray stood up and denied statements that there was no conspiracy. Of course, this does not mean there was a conspiracy—but in fact Ray stated in open court that he did not agree that there was not a conspiracy.

Finally, he has reached the conclusion that the investigation will be "callous." It is not our task to lay to rest the questions or conclusions raised by assassinologists like Mr. McMillan, or the critics of the Warren Commission Report. The committee will have an opportunity to seek and find the truth whatever it may be and wherever it may lead.

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Washington, Feb. 6, 1977