

Most in US think Oswald wasn't alone

By George Gallup

PRINCETON, N.J. — As the House Select Committee on Assassinations begins its investigations, the overwhelming majority of Americans believe that others besides Lee Harvey Oswald were involved in the assassination of President John Kennedy in Dallas, Nov. 22, 1963.

In the latest survey, just completed, 80 percent think others were involved in the assassination, while only 11 percent think Oswald acted alone. Nine percent do not express an opinion.

Persons with a college background, while overwhelmingly of the opinion that some form of conspiracy was involved, are less inclined to hold this view that are persons with less than a college background.

Approximately one-half of the survey respondents who believe others were involved did not name a specific group. Among those who did, however, Cuba or Castro were mentioned most often. Other responses frequently given are "the

Mafia," "Communists," and the CIA.

The same survey also shows that few Americans believe James Earl Ray acted on his own in the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Memphis, April 4, 1968. Only 18 percent hold this view, while 69 percent think others were involved and 13 percent do not express an opinion.

The survey results reported today are based on in-home, in-person interviews with 1520 adults, 18 and older, interviewed in more than 500 scientifically selected lo-

calities across the nation during the period Dec. 10-13.

An investigation into the assassinations of Kennedy and King was recently launched by the newly-established House Select Committee on Assassinations — the sixth to be conducted on a large scale by government officials since Kennedy was assassinated.

Richard A. Sprague, chief counsel of the House Committee, recently told Congress that the re-investigation of the deaths of Kennedy and King would cost more than \$13 million.

One week after the Kennedy assassination, a large majority of Americans expressed doubts that Oswald had acted alone. A survey taken three years later in January, 1967, indicated that these doubts had not been resolved. It was, there-

fore, evident that the report of the Warren Commission had failed to convince many Americans that Oswald alone was responsible.

The public, at the time, however, was opposed to a new investigation.