

Struggles of assassination probe

Beel 6/10/77 Beel Forum

That the New York Times News Service continues its volley of attacks against the purpose of the House Assassinations Committee is not surprising, but that The Bulletin and other news outlets actually promote this disinformation as headline or at least front-page fare is appalling.

As an interested citizen who has been quite close to the committee staff and to researchers working in close conjunction with the investigations, I can state categorically that the committee has not "drawn a blank" in its work.

We must recall that, in its eight-month existence, constant struggles with opposition forces in the news media, in the executive agencies and within Congress itself have stymied this committee, as former Chief Counsel Richard A. Sprague has articulated in numerous recent interviews.

Is it possible to accept the recent discrediting of the committee by various news organizations, the quoting of nebulous "sources" for the material used, in light of recent accounts once again of CIA influence in the manipulation of news? The stories of the CBS network involvement with the CIA (stories which, in the final analysis, appear to have been handed to the rest of the media as a placebo to cover

current abuses) cannot undermine our confidence in the reportage of this most significant committee of the House.

Finally, it was not the work of Mark Lane (again portrayed as another "kook" and "profiteer" of the assassination movement) and the Black Caucus alone that spurred this investigation; it was the will of the overwhelming majority of the American people, expressed in countless cards and letters to representatives, which saw fruition through the lobbying efforts of Mr. Lane and the widow of Dr. King.

Furthermore, the committee has consulted with many other researchers aside from Mr. Lane and in many instances these provided useful, significant leads which could be pursued in even greater depth if the staff would be permitted to do so.

The negative attitude of the press on this issue, however, even after the dismissal of Mr. Sprague (a dismissal actually prompted by the press) will prevent the public from having a clear understanding of the significance of this problem regardless of the diligence and hard work of the committee itself.

Christopher B. Sharrett
Doylestown, Pa