

Babushka

Oswald-Ruby tie hinted by panel

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WASHINGTON — The House Assassinations Committee says it has located a witness, never previously questioned by government investigators, who asserts there was a pre-assassination link between Lee Harvey Oswald and Jack Ruby.

The committee did not name the potential witness in a 14-page report it sent to the full House yesterday to support its request for authority to continue its investigations of the killings of President John F. Kennedy and civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

"The committee staff has spoken with a witness who has never been previously interviewed and who stated that in November of 1963 prior to the assassination of President Kennedy, the witness was personally introduced to Lee Harvey Oswald by Jack Ruby," the report said.

Ruby was convicted of murdering Oswald, who was shot in the basement of the Dallas police station Nov. 24, 1963, two days after Kennedy was killed by shots fired at his motorcade.

COMMISSION VIEW

The Warren Commission, which concluded that Oswald—acting alone—killed Kennedy, concluded that Ruby had never known Oswald and acted only to revenge the killing of the President.

Ruby died Jan. 3, 1967, of cancer while in Prison. He said until his death that he had not been acquainted with Oswald.

If Ruby and Oswald knew each other before the Kennedy killing, it might add credence to theories that the two were involved—possibly with others—in a conspiracy to murder the President.

Some critics of the Warren Commission suggested previously that Ruby killed Oswald to keep him from talking about the case.

In its report, the committee gave no indication of the reliability of the potential witness. Several other persons have said over the years that they saw Oswald and Ruby together, but none of their stories has ever been substantiated.

The committee is scheduled to expire Thursday unless the House votes to extend it. Speaker Thomas P. O'Neil (D-Mass.) has said he supports continuation of the investigation, and the committee is expected to survive a vote this week.

Some of the rumors cited in the report have been speculated about for years. The committee said that if it is permitted to continue it will attempt to determine whether the reports are true.

The committee said it would attempt to determine whether James Earl Ray, who pleaded guilty to murdering King, was part of a conspiracy.

"The King investigation has uncovered evidence that suggests that, between April, 1967, [when he escaped from prison in Missouri] and June, 1968, [when he was captured], Ray received assistance from a person or persons presently unknown," the report said. "A primary example of this possible assistance is Ray's use of false identities and a false passport during this period."