

There's some doubt about

BY TIM WYNGAARD
Scripps-Howard Staff Writer

WASHINGTON—The biggest task confronting the House Assassination Committee, now that its existence is assured for at least another year, is convincing Congress it really does have new leads in the murders of President John F. Kennedy and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

While the committee has repeatedly contended behind closed doors that it has uncovered startling new evidence, many lawmakers who have heard the secret briefings remain unconvinced the

committee's work consists of anything more than publicity seeking.

Main points of controversy about the new leads in the Kennedy and King cases are whether those which are truly new—never revealed before—are believable, and that some of the "evidence" consists of old rumors retailed and recirculated by the committee staff.

"Newest" lead reported by the committee is a mystery witness, a former striptease dancer now married to an evangelist, who has told the committee

assassination probers' new leads

she wants to testify about meeting Lee Harvey Oswald with Jack Ruby in Ruby's Dallas strip club two weeks before Kennedy's murder.

But to believe that story, congressional critics say, a person has to believe:

- That she did meet "Lee Harvey Oswald of the CIA," as she said Ruby introduced him.

- That she also happened to be taking pictures almost alongside Kennedy's car when he was shot on Nov. 22, 1963.

- That two days later, FBI and CIA agents had been able to learn that she was at the murder site, identify her, locate her and confiscate her film.

- That a friend with her when she "met" Oswald suddenly disappeared.

- That she decided to remain silent for more than 13 years—and now has come forward with new evidence only after a religious rebirth.

Similarly, another "new" lead cited by the committee is the information that there may be four or five additional bullet fragments taken from the body of Texas Gov. John B. Connally.