

Assassination Report Offers No Surprises

WASHINGTON (AP)—Congressmen who got a preview of results of a \$5 million probe of the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King say there are new details but no bombshells.

Two, who did not wish to be identified, said the most dramatic disclosure concerned an alleged offer by a group of St. Louis businessmen to pay \$50,000 for King's murder. But they said the investigation has not established the truth of the allegation. The committee reportedly has been investigating a St. Louis man's claim that such an offer was made to him and that he turned it down.

Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Director William Webster said Monday an informant's report on the claim contained "heresay three times removed."

MEMBERS OF a House subcommittee considering the House Assassinations Committee's request for an additional \$800,000 got the preview in a closed-door briefing Monday.

The congressmen, who were told what the committee plans to disclose next week about the King assassination and in September about the Kennedy assassination,

told reporters they were impressed with what they heard.

But after James Earl Ray's lawyer, Mark Lane, accused the committee of illegal undercover tactics, the subcommittee voted Tuesday to hold up the \$800,000 request until after the committee's public hearings next week on the King assassination.

"LET'S WAIT until we see the media reaction to their findings," said Rep. John Dent, D-Pa., chairman of the House accounts subcommittee.

Mark Lane made his accusation at a news conference in St. Louis. He was joined by a man named Oliver Patterson, who said he did the undercover work for a committee investigator.

Patterson, who called himself a former FBI informer, said he gave a committee investigator illegal tape recordings he made of telephone conversations with James Earl Ray and copies of letters between Ray and his brother, Jerry Ray, which Patterson stole.

Lane called for an investigation of the tactics and said two committee counsels should be disbarred for illegal acts which he did not describe.

James Earl Ray, serving a 99-year sentence for the murder of King on April 4, 1968, is to testify for three days next week.

THE RANKING Republican, Rep. Samuel Devine of Ohio, said the panel needs another \$800,000 because the \$5 million the House has approved the last two years for the committee will run out about September 15.