

The Assassinations Committee

IT IS MORE THAN 14 years since the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Next month will be the 10th anniversary of the assassination of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

In all those years, no evidence has been uncovered that has seriously controverted the official findings in either case regarding the identity of the murderers and their motives, despite a continuous outpouring of theories, speculations and allegations.

The House Select Committee on Assassinations in its current probe has so far spent \$2.5 million on the Kennedy and King assassinations — more than was spent on any other congressional inquiry in recent history, including Watergate — and we know nothing that we did not know 14 or 10 years ago.

It is past time, we think, for the Government to write finis to both tragedies and put the taxpayers' money to better use.

Yet the House has just voted to extend the life of the Assassinations Committee until the end of 1978 and

has given it another \$2.5 million.

According to Rep. Stewart B. McKinney, a member of the committee, "a great deal of new information" has been developed, but to disclose it now would compromise the investigation.

When may we hope it will be disclosed? The trails grow colder and colder. Witnesses are aging and dying. Memories are fading.

By the end of the current session of Congress in December, it will have been more than two years since the committee was established. If by then it has nothing substantial to report to the public or to the Justice Department, it should dissolve itself gracefully.

For ourselves, we will view the \$5 million the Assassinations Committee will have spent as a costly, and fruitless, tribute to the memories of Kennedy and King, and the natural unwillingness of Americans to accept the essential senselessness of their deaths.

Sooner or later, however, we must accept it.

Knoxville News-Sentinel 3/22/78