

SFChronicle JAN 4 1979

Crime Link to Ruby's Action Ruled Out

Washington

Representative Louis Stokes, D-Ohio, chairman of the House Assassinations Committee, yesterday ruled out an organized crime link to the slaying of Lee Harvey Oswald by Jack Ruby.

Ruby, a Dallas nightclub owner, shot Oswald to death while he was being held by police on charges of assassinating President Kennedy in Dallas 15 years ago.

Stokes said his panel — which goes out of business at midnight tonight — was aware of theories that organized crime had Ruby kill Oswald to hide Oswald's alleged connections with the crime syndicate.

"We went into the matter quite exhaustively and we were unable to find that particular type of allegation to be true," Stokes said in an interview on the ABC-TV "Good Morning America" program.

"In fact," he said, "one of the persons who testified at our hearing said that if Jack Ruby was involved in organized crime, then the personnel director of organized crime ought to have his head examined."

During its hearings, the committee had concluded that Ruby was only a small-time nightclub operator with delusions of grandeur.

However, Stokes said, the committee had not ruled out possible participation by individual members of organized crime — acting without top direction — in a conspiracy to kill the president.