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Assassinations 300

WASHINGTON AP - Formation of a National Committee to Investigate Assassinations was announced Thursday with a suggestion that a conspiracy may be behind the slayings of the Kennedy brothers and Dr. Martin Luther King.

Bernard Fensterwald, executive director, said "the purpose of the committee is to coordinate and step-up the efforts of individual investigators throughout the country."

It will be financed by private contributions, he said.

"With the help of a professional staff," Fensterwald said, "the committee ultimately hopes to force the federal government into the thorough and honest inquiry which it has avoided since Nov. 22, 1963" - the date of President John F. Kennedy's assassination in Dallas.

Fensterwald is resigning as chief counsel of the Senate Judiciary Committee's subcommittee on administrative practice and procedure.

In his statement announcing organization of the Committee to Investigate Assassinations, Fensterwald said the group's work would proceed on a number of assumptions.

He said these included the assumptions that a conspiracy was involved in President Kennedy's assassination and in the slaying of King in Memphis and that "there are footprints which point toward a conspiracy" in the pistol death of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy in Los Angeles.

"As to a possible inter-connection between the three slayings," he added, "the most that can be said at present is that there are a number of parallels in the cases which might indicate a common modus operandi which normally would be subject to official scrutiny."

Among the committee's board of directors is Jim Garrison, the controversial district attorney in New Orleans who has been investigating the assassination of President Kennedy. And Fensterwald said its members include many of the critics of the Warren Commission report on the assassination.

The commission headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren concluded that no conspiracy was involved in President Kennedy's assassination.