

2★ Los Angeles Times Tues., Mar. 18, 1969—Part 1 7

Probers Claim Plots in Kennedy, King Deaths

Exclusive to The Times from a Staff Writer

WASHINGTON—A new group investigating American political assassinations suggested Monday that conspirators — some of them possibly the same persons—were behind the murders of President John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King.

The conspiracy allegations — some new and some old—were made at a press conference by the Committee to Investigate Assassinations.

The committee, declining to reveal the source of its finances, charged that the government was deliberately withholding facts about the assassinations for fear the American public was not prepared to accept them.

Bernard Fensterwald Jr., executive director of the committee, whose directors include New Orleans Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison, said one purpose in holding the press conference was "to get our names before the public" to help raise funds.

Fensterwald, former counsel to the Senate judiciary subcommittee on administrative practices and

procedures, said the new committee has raised "a relatively small sum"—enough to run a two-man office here.

He said the committee "ultimately hopes to force the federal government into the thorough and honest inquiry which it has avoided" since the death of President Kennedy.

Fensterwald stepped down as the senate subcommittee's counsel last

Jan. 1 after the chairman, Sen. Edward V. Long (D-Mo.), lost his bid for reelection.

Other directors are:

Fred Cook, Englewood, N.J., freelance writer and critic of the FBI; John Henry Faulk, Austin, Tex., humorist and writer; Paris Flammonde, New York author of "The Kennedy Conspiracy;" Richard Popkin, a philosophy professor at UC-San Diego; Lloyd Tupling, Washington representative for the Sierra Club; Richard Sprague, a self-employed Hartsdale, N.Y., management consultant; and William Turner, former FBI agent and a writer for Ramparts magazine.