

# Poll on Kennedy, King Murders

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As the House Select Committee on Assassinations begins its investigations, the overwhelming majority of Americans believe that other persons besides Lee Harvey Oswald were involved in the assassination of President John Kennedy in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.

In the latest survey, just completed, 80 per cent think others were involved in the assassination, while only 11 per cent think Oswald acted alone. Nine per cent do not express an opinion.

Persons with a college background, while overwhelmingly of the opinion that some form of conspiracy was involved, are less inclined to hold this view than are persons with less than a college background.

Approximately one-half of the survey respondents who believe others were involved did not name a specific group. Among those who did, however, Cuba or Castro were mentioned most often. Other responses frequently given were "the Mafia," "Communists" and the CIA.

The same survey also shows that few Americans believe James Earl Ray acted on his own in the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. in Memphis on April 4, 1968. Only 18 per cent hold this view, while 69 per cent think others were involved and 13 per cent do not express an opinion.

An investigation into the Kennedy and King assassinations was recently launched by the newly established House Select Committee on Assassinations—the sixth probe to be conducted on a large scale by government officials since Kennedy was assassinated.

Richard A. Sprague, chief counsel of the House committee, recently told Congress that the reinvestigation of the deaths of Kennedy and King would cost more than \$13 million.

One week after the Kennedy assassination, a large majority of Americans expressed doubts that Oswald had acted alone. A survey taken three years later (in January, 1967 indicated that these doubts that Oswald been resolved. It was, therefore, evident that the report of the Warren Commission had failed to convince many Americans that Oswald alone was responsible.

The public, at that time, however, was opposed to a new investigation.

Here is the question asked in the three surveys:

"Do you think one man was responsible for the assassination of President Kennedy, or do you think others were involved?"

Here is the trend:

	One Man	Others Involved	No Opinion
November 1963	29pct	52pct	19pct
January 1967	36pct	50pct	14pct
December 1976	11pct	80pct	9pct

This question was also asked:

"Here is a question about the assassination of civil rights leader Martin Luther King. Do you think one man was responsible for the assassination of Martin Luther King, or do you think others were involved?"

Here are the results:

	One Man	Others Involved	No Opinion
December 1976	18pct	69pct	13pct