

Assassination Probe — Key Meeting Off

Washington

What was to have been a climactic meeting of the dissension-ridden House Assassination Committee was canceled suddenly last night by the illness of the embattled chairman, Representative Henry Gonzalez.

The Texas Democrat, who is in a leadership struggle with his panel, reported to his Washington office that he was ill with influenza at his home in San Antonio and would not be able to preside over a crucial meeting of the committee this afternoon.

That meeting was to have ended a series of procrastinations on a decision as to whether Gonzalez or Richard Sprague, the chief committee counsel he fired February 10, would prevail, or perhaps whether both would go.

Gonzalez was to have conferred today with House Speaker Thomas O'Neill before facing the 11 members of the committee.

O'Neill said yesterday that he did not think Gonzalez should step down. He also said on the "Face the Nation" television program that he considered Sprague "a tremendously able man."

United Press
