

# JFK Death Probe Called A 'Farce'

## San Antonio

Representative Henry B. Gonzalez says the assassination of John F. Kennedy will never be investigated fully "because vast and powerful forces, including the country's most sophisticated crime element, won't stand for it.

"This criminal element is all-pervasive, loaded with nothing but money and in many ways more potent than the government itself," said Gonzalez, a Texas Democrat who submitted his resignation last week as chairman of the House of Representatives Assassination Committee.

In an interview published yesterday in the San Antonio Express-News, Gonzalez said other forces against the investigation include "the Kennedy family and heavy business interests in the Dallas-Fort Worth area who don't want all the old JFK muck raked up."

The congressman called the assassination probe committee "a put-on job and a hideous farce that was never intended to work."

He criticized the committee's chief counsel, Richard Sprague, as an "unconscionable scoundrel" and added:

"Sprague tried to spend committee money on long-distance phone calls to his Philadelphia law firm and to the home of his girlfriend there. And get this. He actually took a little Acapulco vacation for himself while on the committee payroll."

Sprague declined to comment yesterday.

Gonzalez predicted the committee will forget about the Kennedy assassination now and go into "a weak, one-legged investigation of the Martin Luther King assassination as a sop to blacks."

Gonzalez resigned as committee chairman after a showdown in which he tried to fire Sprague but fellow committee members supported the former Pennsylvania prosecutor.

Gonzalez' resignation has not been formally accepted.

Gonzalez said he tried to call House Speaker Thomas O'Neill and fellow Texan Majority Leader Jim Wright to enlist their support.

"It was an exercise in futility," Gonzalez said. "The fix was in."

*Associated Press*