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Witness Reportedly Links Oswald and Ruby

Washington

The house assassinations committee said yesterday it has located a witness, never previously questioned by government investigators, who has said there was a pre-assassination link between Lee Harvey Oswald and Jack Ruby.

The committee did not name the potential witness in a 14-page report it sent to the full House to support its request for authority to continue its investigations of the killings of President John F. Kennedy and civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

"The committee staff has spoken with a witness who has never been previously interviewed and who stated that in November of

1963, before the assassination of President Kennedy, the witness was personally introduced to Lee Harvey Oswald by Jack Ruby," the report said.

Ruby was convicted of murdering Oswald, who was shot in the basement of the Dallas police station on Nov. 24, 1963, two days after Kennedy was killed by shots fired at his motorcade.

The Warren Commission, which concluded that Oswald — acting alone — killed Kennedy, concluded that Ruby never knew Oswald and acted only to revenge the killing of the President.

Ruby died Jan. 3, 1967, of cancer while in prison. He always denied being acquainted with Oswald.

If Ruby and Oswald knew each other before the Kennedy killing, it might add credence to theories that the two were involved — possibly with others — in a conspiracy to murder the President. Some critics of the Warren Commission suggested previously that Ruby killed Oswald to prevent him from talking about the case.

In its report, the committee gave no indication of the reliability of the potential witness. Several other persons have said over the years that they saw Oswald and Ruby together, but none of their stories has ever been substantiated.

The report was filled with brief descriptions of potential leads in both the Kennedy and King cases.

The committee, which has been beset by internal bickering and financial problems, said it has not yet been able to verify any of the leads.

The committee also said it would attempt to determine if James Earl Ray, who pleaded guilty to murdering King, was part of a conspiracy.

The committee is scheduled to expire Thursday unless the full House votes to extend it. Speaker Thomas P. O'Neill (Dem-Mass.) has said he supports continuation of the investigation and the committee is expected to survive a vote sometime this week.

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