

Assassinations Probe Fights to Continue

Washington

Members of Congress trying to keep the House Assassination Committee alive conceded yesterday they face an uphill fight jeopardized mainly by opposition to the panel's chief counsel, Richard Sprague.

"In my talks with some of the members, I've counted ten votes against the resolution strictly because of the Sprague issue," Representative Yvonne Burke (Dem-Calif.) said of the resolution requesting that the life of the assassination committee be prolonged beyond its

expiration date tomorrow.

"From everything I can see, it is going to be an extremely close vote and I wouldn't say now which way it will go," said Burke, a member of the special panel set up to investigate the murders of John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr.

A resolution reconstituting the panel through the rest of the present Congress is scheduled for floor action today.

The Sprague controversy centers on allegations by Henry Gonzalez (Dem-Tex.), the former assassination panel chairman, that Sprague exceeded his authority in hiring staff members and attempting to set policy.

Gonzalez resigned his chairmanship after the rest of the panel blocked his attempt to fire Sprague.

Sprague also stirred opposition by saying that the committee had to have \$13 million in funds for two years or it should not even attempt to carry its investigative assignments.

The panel has since reduced its



YVONNE BURKE
'It is going to be close'

budget request to \$5.6 million over two years.

"We're trying to convince members that the committee (after Gonzalez resigned) went over all the allegations with Mr. Sprague and we are satisfied they have been answered and that he is still the most qualified man for the post," Burke said.

The panel contends it has "new leads" and information, most of it uncorroborated, in the two killings that are worth further investigation.

Kidnaping In Mexico

Mexico City

The chairman of the board of one of Mexico's largest beer companies was kidnaped yesterday while he was driving to work, police said.

Antonio Fernandez Rodriguez, 55, chairman of Cervceria Modelo, was wounded by a bullet during the kidnaping, witnesses said.

His driver was not injured.

Associated Press

United Press