

New Assassination Probe Chief Named

Washington

A law professor considered to be an expert on organized crime was named yesterday to head the House Assassination Committee's investigation of the murders of President Kennedy and Martin Luther King.

G. Robert Blakey, 41, of Cornell University succeeds Richard Sprague, who resigned as chief counsel amid controversy earlier this year.

Blakey said at a news conference called by the panel to announce his appointment that he intends "a quiet investigation" and that "this will be my first and last press conference."

His comment reflected committee members' sensitivity to recent press reports that the eight-month-old inquiry has bogged down and that House leaders are likely to terminate it by the end of this year.

Blakey's predecessor, Sprague, had a long feud with the panel's former chairman, Texas Democrat Henry Gonzalez, and Sprague's proposed investigative techniques generated strong criticism of the committee by some members of Congress.

Reuters