

MCKEITHEN, CRIME PROBERS MAKE TRIP SURPRISE N.Y.

By BILL LYNCH
(States-Item Bureau)

BATON ROUGE—Gov. John J. McKeithen and a five-man back-up team unexpectedly flew to New York today and conferred with the editors of Life magazine about the publication's repeated charges of organized crime in Louisiana.

The governor and his delegation, which includes the president of the Metropolitan Crime Commission and the vice-chairman of the state's Labor-Management Commission of Inquiry, met with Life executives late this afternoon.

(In an interview with the States-Item yesterday, McKeithen called the Life accusations a "deliberate smear" and indicated Life representatives would come to Baton Rouge to see him.)

THE MAGAZINE THIS WEEK repeated its charges that syndicated crime exists in Louisiana and flourishes "under the very nose" of Gov. McKeithen and Orleans Parish Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison.

A terse statement issued by the governor's office this morning announced the unheralded trip and named Gov.

McKeithen's companions as:

E. C. Upton Jr., the MCC president.
Louisiana State University Law School Dean Paul Herbert, vice-chairman of the state labor rackets commission.
Camille Gravel, counsel for the labor-management commission.

Edward W. Stagg, executive director of the Council for a Better Louisiana.

Gus Weill, the governor's press aide.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT said Gov. McKeithen will return to Louisiana tomorrow.

Yesterday, Gov. McKeithen said he was "most anxious" to hear first hand what editors and publishers of Life would have to say about their recent articles on gangsterism in Louisiana.

In its article, Life charged that, in an effort to spring Teamster Union boss James R. Hoffa from a federal prison, mobsters had offered a \$1 million bribe to the principal government witness against Hoffa to recant or change his testimony.

The magazine said the bribe

Young told the story to the governor, who threatened to fire him. Young resigned, and has since denied to Life that he got any money for his efforts or had any connection with Carlos Marcello, named by Life as the Cosa Nostra boss in Louisiana.

"I DON'T know," he shrugged. "I can't figure it out." He (McKeithen) apparently thinks I had something to do with the (Life) story. I didn't. "I know Sandy Smith (the Life author)," Sheridan said; "I saw him once when he was down here. He didn't ask me for any help and I didn't give him any."

IN ITS NEW issue, Life said it had learned that Marcello has placed many telephone calls to Young at the governor's offices in the state Capitol in Baton Rouge during the period of Young's involvement in the Partin bribery offer.

The magazine said it also learned that Young was a guest of Mario Marino, a Marcello lieutenant, at the Sands Hotel in Las Vegas early this year, not long after the bribery attempt.

"While there he passed out a dozen \$100 bills to chorus girls, although he supposedly was deep in debt," the magazine said.

McKeithen said that Young is now in a state mental hospital.

"He has vehemently denied to me having talked or met with Carlos Marcello," McKeithen said. "His trips to Las Vegas were one reason I told

him he couldn't work for me any more."

Yesterday, the governor said that he thought the articles written by Life, in addition to being a "deliberate smear" of Louisiana, were somehow connected with the indictment here of National Broadcasting Co. newsman Walter Sheridan.

Sheridan is under indictment for public bribery in the Garrison assassination probe.

Today, Sheridan said he does not know why "McKeithen would make such a statement."

offer was made to the witness—Edward R. Partin, a Baton Rouge Teamster official—in a meeting at the home of Aubrey Young, then an aide to Gov. McKeithen.

The magazine said that several months after the bribe was offered and rejected,

U.S. Jury Quizzes 4 in Hoffa Case

A federal grand jury heard testimony from four persons today in its investigation into allegations of a conspiracy to free Teamster Union President James R. Hoffa from prison.

Appearing today before the grand jury were New Orleans builder Zachary A. "Red" Strate; television newsman Walter Sheridan; New Orleans Attorney Edward M. Baldwin; and Pershing Gervais, former investigator for Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison.

THE GRAND jury is investigating allegations that Baton Rouge Teamster Union official Edward Grady Partin was offered bribes to change his testimony which was instrumental in sending Teamster president James R. Hoffa to prison on a jury-tampering charge.

Strate was convicted along with Hoffa of conspiracy and fraud in another trial in 1964.

Strate testified at a Chicago federal court hearing last month that Sheridan offered to aid him if Strate would help discredit Garrison's investigation into the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Sheridan was an aide to former U.S. Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy during the

investigations by the Justice Department which led to Hoffa's conviction.

Also at the Chicago hearing, Criminal District Court Judge Malcolm V. O'Hara testified that he had been a "messenger" in an attempt to get Partin to sign an affidavit that illegal wire-tap evidence had been used to convict Hoffa.

THE CHICAGO hearing ended with the presiding judge ruling that Hoffa did not deserve a new trial.

During the hearing, O'Hara said that Baldwin, who was O'Hara's campaign manager in the judge's unsuccessful campaign to unseat Garrison in 1965, contacted him concerning Sheridan. The judge said that Baldwin told him Sheridan was preparing a special program for the National Broadcasting Co. on Garrison's probe.

O'Hara said that Baldwin initiated a meeting between Strate and Sheridan.

After his appearance before the grand jury today, Sheridan said that his meeting with Strate came after Judge O'Hara told him he had "information that would be very helpful concerning the Garrison investigation."

"I DID NOT know that Strate would be at the meeting," Sheridan said. "Strate offered me Pershing Gervais. I told him before he went any farther I wanted to know what he wanted from me."

"He told me he wanted Hoffa out of jail," Sheridan said. "He wanted me to give him information about bugging and wiretapping and Chattanooga (the scene of Hoffa's trial for jury-tampering)."

Sheridan said, "I told him that there was no bugging or wiretapping in Chattanooga. That was the end of it."

Baldwin would only say, "I have no comment about this unfortunate affair."

Gervais told reporters, "I don't have the slightest idea what this is about." *July*

MCC Records Subpenaed by Grand Jury

The Orleans Parish Grand Jury today subpenaed all records of the New Orleans Metropolitan Crime Commission, including the names of the commission's confidential informants and what amounts $\frac{1}{2}$ they were paid for information.

The subpena calls on officers of the MCC to deliver the documents and records to the grand jury at 2 p. m. Thursday.

It names MCC President E. C. [redacted], Treasurer James W. [redacted] Jr., Secretary P. L. Frank [redacted] and Managing Director [redacted] Kohn as the officers responsible for producing the books and records.

Among the papers the jury wants to see are the membership records of the MCC—the names of members and contributors and the amounts of their contributions.

Subpenas were dispatched shortly after 2 p. m. as the grand jury pressed an inquiry into recent allegations of organized crime in the New Orleans metropolitan area.