

YOUNG SUMMONED AS JURY PROBES MARCELLO LINKS

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Aubrey Young, the former aide to Gov. John J. McKeithen linked to rackets figure Carlos Marcello, was called before the East Baton Rouge Parish grand jury today as the governor's newly declared war on organized crime moved into full swing.

District Attorney Sargent Pitcher said that Young, who was an aide to McKeithen for three years and also served as a colonel of the state police, appeared voluntarily without a subpoena.

He said Young talked with him for a long period last night and revealed the contents of at least one telephone conversation he had with Marcello.

This morning the grand jury heard testimony from David L. Chandler, a Life magazine reporter from New Orleans. Chandler was one of the reporters who worked on the series of Life articles about criminal activity in Louisiana.

MEANWHILE, THE GOVERNOR and Col. Thomas Burbank, director of the state Department of Public Safety, called in the top echelon of state police officers to begin

McKeithen's crackdown on crime.

McKeithen began acting rapidly yesterday after his return from New York and a conference with the editors of Life.

Young was brought to Baton Rouge last night from Mandeville, where he had been a patient in the Southeast Louisiana Hospital.

Pitcher said Young was accompanied last night by Camille Gravel, chief counsel for the Baton Rouge labor-management board of inquiry, and Col. Burbank.

He said Young declared he did not want an attorney. He added that Young may later appear before the grand jury in New Orleans.

PITCHER SAID Young under heavy security guard and if the information he Pitcher, has seen is correct "he needs all the protection he can get."

McKeithen, commenting on the Life articles yesterday, said the magazine was light on Louisiana in view of the

evidence presented to him in New York. He said in initiating his crackdown that some people may wind up in the penitentiary.

Earlier, the governor said Young would be given a chance to turn state's evidence against Marcello.

Young left Mandeville in an unmarked car in the company

of two uniformed state policemen.

Dr. Thomas L. Young, superintendent of the hospital, said Aubrey Young left on an indefinite pass, meaning he was not required to return at any specific time.

He said that in his opinion the patient was "mentally competent" when he left the hospital.

THE DOCTOR said he wanted to give Young a chance to clear up his predicament. "I don't think it's fair to keep him isolated at the hospital, unable to defend himself," he

said.

During a break in the grand jury proceedings, Pitcher came out and issued a statement saying he had been requested by Gov. McKeithen to investigate a connection between Young and Marcello.

Pitcher said, "Although the bulk of the information he discussed with me concerned activity outside East Baton Rouge Parish, he asked that I investigate information in his possession which suggested a connection between his former aide and colonel of the state police, Aubrey Young, and Carlos Marcello."

"AS HAS BEEN reported by Life magazine and commented upon by the governor in the various news media, this connection or tie-in was telephone calls made by Carlos Marcello to telephones available to Young both in the capitol and in the governor's mansion."

This statement was the first disclosure of any availability of telephones in the governor's mansion.

Pitcher said, "Essentially, the governor has asked my office and the East Baton Rouge Parish Grand Jury to investigate the alleged telephone calls with the view toward making a determination on three points:

"1. Were these calls actually made?

"2. If such calls actually

took place, were they made for an illegal or criminal purpose?

"3. If there was criminal conduct involved, whether or not such criminal activity came within the jurisdiction of East Baton Rouge Parish for indictment and trial."

The DA said numerous telephone numbers had been turned over to him by the governor, and he had prepared subpoenas to obtain information concerning them from the telephone company.

PITCHER SAID, "it is my intention to interview, interrogate, and put before our grand jury all persons having knowledge of the activities of the governor's former aide, particularly those involving possible criminal conduct, with the view toward obtaining answers to the questions presented to me for determination."

He said that if there has been criminal conduct in his parish, he is certain the grand jury will return indictments. He said he would prosecute to the full extent of the law.

Young was committed to the hospital by his mother. He has been treated off and on for alcoholism at state hospitals.

THE FORMER AIDE, who held the rank of colonel, was connected to Marcello through telephone calls made person-to-person from a Marcello telephone to one in the governor's office.

In a 30-minute appearance before captains and inspectors of state police, McKeithen told the troopers that he wanted a clamp-down on all gambling and prostitution in their districts.

He advised them to contact the local sheriffs in the respective troop areas and warn them that state police would henceforth enforce the state law and not rely on local law enforcement.

Troop commanders from the 13 troops and three inspectors attended the brief meeting, which generally was a per-

sonal outline by the governor of his previously announced stand.

The only troop commander missing was Capt. Roland Coppola of Lafayette, who has been suspended pending an investigation of his relationship with Marcello.

COPPOLA'S PLACE was filled by Lt. Solomon Hundley of Lafayette, which is the Troop I area.

Col. Burbank also addressed the short meeting and afterward he and Gov. McKeithen left State Police headquarters together.

Earlier, Orleans Parish DA Jim Garrison declared himself "astonished" at Gov. McKeithen's apology to Life and asserted he will not work with Metropolitan Crime Commission managing director Aaron Kohn.

Reacting immediately after Gov. McKeithen returned from his summit crime conference with magazine staff members at New York, Garrison said:

"I am astonished by Gov. McKeithen's apology to Life Magazine. I do not intend to apologize to Life or anyone else in New York or Washington."

"Least of all do I intend to work with Aaron Kohn, as the governor suggested, in any project of any kind."

The governor criticized both Garrison and Kohn, who have been at public odds for more than a year, and said the DA should work closely with the New Orleans crime commission.

MCC President E. C. Upton said today that he was "sorry to learn" that Garrison "has no intention of mending fences."

Asked if were still willing to let bygones be bygones in spite of Garrison's statement, Upton said, "The overriding situation is what's best for the people, not what's best for the district attorney or the crime commission."

Coppola, when he received his suspension papers yesterday, said he was "deeply shocked" by his removal for

investigation.

"My 15-year record of performance will speak for itself," he declared. "If I am guilty because of my casual associations, then the great majority of police officers who deal with undesirables also are guilty."

"As a professional police officer, like any other profession, I must know the element that I am to combat, such as the physician knowing his patient, and members of the clergy knowing their congregation."

THE POLICE captain said he had hired lawyers and "at the proper time and proper place, it shall be proved beyond any shadow of a doubt that I have not violated any laws nor have I used my position for personal gain."

On his return yesterday, McKeithen said he is convinced that DA Garrison "is not connected with racketeers" adding, however, that Garrison "may have a chance to prosecute" some of them.

ON HIS PART, Garrison stuck to his offer to step out of office if anyone proves there is Cosa Nostra control in Orleans Parish.

Garrison's complete statement follows:

"I am astonished by Gov. McKeithen's apology to Life Magazine. I do not intend to apologize to Life or anyone else in New York or Washing-

ton. Least of all do I intend to work with Aaron Kohn, as the governor has suggested, in any project of any kind."

"In my judgment, Aaron Kohn is a professional liar who lives in a fanciful world surrounded by racketeers and mobsters."

"Kohn, because of his addiction to lying, is the major law enforcement problem in the state of Louisiana. My office has not compromised with professional criminals and we do not intend to compromise with professional liars such as Aaron Kohn."

"As for a drive against organized crime, my office has had such a drive for five years and it has been successful. Every lottery operator in the city of New Orleans has been sent to the penitentiary where not one had ever been sent before.

"Every known abortionist has been sent to the penitentiary where none had ever been sent before. Clip joints have been padlocked when none ever had been padlocked before. We have fought the loan sharks when they have never before been fought.

"The last house of prostitution has been closed down. None of this progress—I repeat—none of it—was made with the help of Aaron Kohn or the Metropolitan Crime Commission. This progress of the last five years has never been matched in the history of New Orleans.

"Is this a city where organized crime is flourishing, where racketeers are in control?

"In many instances Kohn's insincerity and prevarication have served as obstacles to progress and law enforcement. Kohn is in the position of a witch doctor in a town where the witches have moved away; he must continue to create a fear of witches if he is to receive his customary gifts from the people of the village.

"As for the governor's statement that organized crime and corruption are flourishing in Louisiana, I am willing to take him at his word. After all, he has been governor for three years and he should know. Such corruption does not exist in the city of New Orleans, however.

"Nevertheless, the charge itself, however ill-founded, is serious enough to justify an inquiry. This is why every relevant witness is being called before the grand jury. We are going to dig into these charges completely. If there is any truth at all to them, then we want the entire truth brought out for the people to



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CAPT. ROLAND COPPOLA

see with nothing left hidden.

"If the charges are false, then the people have a right to know who has initiated such false charges and why they have done this.

"Under no circumstances will I compromise with professional liars like Aaron Kohn. This man has done a great disservice to New Orleans and the entire state of Louisiana by finding a new market for his half-truths and lies. I will not add to his disservice by joining with him or by apologizing to anyone for the city of New Orleans or the state of Louisiana."