

**BRAZEN EMPIRE
OF CRIME**

From a governor and a D.A. an offer of resignation

by **SANDY SMITH**

Last week, as a result of LIFE's series on organized crime ("The Mob," Sept. 1 and 8), Louisiana's Governor John J. McKeithen and New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison offered to resign if, as they put it, disclosures contained in the stories could be proved.

In part, the articles dealt with Cosa Nostra's hoodlum empire in Louisiana and how it is flourishing, with a remarkable degree of official tolerance, under McKeithen's and Garrison's very noses. LIFE stands behind the facts as presented, and herewith bolsters them with new details brought to light in its continuing investigation.

The articles cited specific facts concerning Carlos Marcello, Cosa Nostra's top man in Louisiana. In detailing the illegal enterprises that he conducts behind his veneer of respectability, LIFE gave specific examples of the influence he wields among law enforcement officials and at several levels of local and state government.

The example which initially upset the governor concerned a brazen attempt last January by Marcello, at the behest of mobster and Teamster Union officials in the East, to spring Jimmy Hoffa from a federal penitentiary. As reported in LIFE, the method hit upon by the Mob was to bribe the principal government witness against

Hoffa—a Baton Rouge Teamster official named Edward G. Partin—to recant or change his testimony. An offer of \$1 million was made to Partin (who turned it down) at a meeting in the home of one Aubrey Young. Who is Young? At the time he was a key assistant and confidant of Governor McKeithen.

Several months after the bribe was offered and rejected, Young blurted out the story to the governor, who threatened to fire him. Young resigned. He has since denied to LIFE that he got any money for his efforts or that he had any connection with Marcello.

Governor McKeithen has called LIFE's disclosures a "deliberate smear" of his state. At the Southern Governors' Conference, held at Asheville, N.C., he denied to reporters that there is any organized racketeering in Louisiana—with the possible exception of some illegal union activities. Marcello, he insisted, is no longer engaged in crime activities, and therefore does

Aubrey Young, who quit as aide to Louisiana Governor McKeithen in June, admitted setting up meeting at which a \$1 million bribe was offered to the principal government witness against Teamster boss Jimmy Hoffa.





Seldom seen outside his empire, Marcello (second from left) went to New York last year for a Cosa Nostra meeting. He was arrested with Florida Cosa Nostra Boss Santo Trafficante (third from left) and other gangsters in a raid on a Queens restaurant. Several days later Marcello and Trafficante returned to the restaurant with some friends for the meal shown here.

not constitute a problem. As for any suggestion that the Mob has wielded influence in his administration, the governor said, "The people of this state will have my resignation so fast it will make their heads swim" if evidence of such influence is found to exist.

The facts in the case precisely demonstrate the see-no-evil attitude of public officials which has made it possible for the Mob and its enterprises to flourish in the U.S. Since the governor does not regard his former assistant's admission of the bribery meeting as hard evidence, here are some new details of the case which his own investigators can check:

1) Many times, from June 1966 until March 1967, Carlos Marcello placed telephone calls to Aubrey Young's direct line (343-6106) at the governor's offices in the state capitol at Baton Rouge. The calls were made from Marcello's private office in the Town and Country Motel near New Orleans.

2) In placing the calls, Marcello used one of three phones installed at Stevie Motel Inc., an enterprise operated by a Marcello henchman from a separate building near the Town and Country Motel. By an illegal device that bookies call a "cheesebox," one of the three Stevie phone lines (834-1134) was diverted to Marcello's office in the motel. The phone could be answered *only* in Marcello's office.

3) Using the same telephone in that same period, Marcello also placed calls to at least six Cosa Nostra figures: New York Cosa Nostra *capos* Mike Miranda and Thomas Eboli, Kansas City Cosa Nostra Boss Nick Civella, Dallas Cosa Nostra Boss Joe Civello, San Francisco Cosa Nostra Boss James Lanza and Florida's Cosa Nostra Boss Santo Trafficante.

4) Marcello's calls to Young in the governor's offices covered the period of Young's involvement as an intermediary in the efforts to bribe Edward G. Partin.

The U.S. government's inquiry into the bribe offer led to federal grand jury subpoenas for both Young and one Mario Marino, a

well-known Marcello lieutenant and for some years past a big wheel at The Sands hotel-casino in Las Vegas. LIFE can now reveal that Young had been a guest of Marino at The Sands early this year, not

long after the bribery attempt. While there he passed out perhaps a dozen \$100 bills to chorus girls, although he supposedly was deep in debt.

Marino is important for another reason—his connection to District Attorney Jim Garrison.

As stated in the LIFE articles, Garrison was also a guest of Marino at The Sands, when the casino was still controlled by the Mob. (At the time, Garrison was much in the news in connection with his charges of a Kennedy assassination conspiracy.)

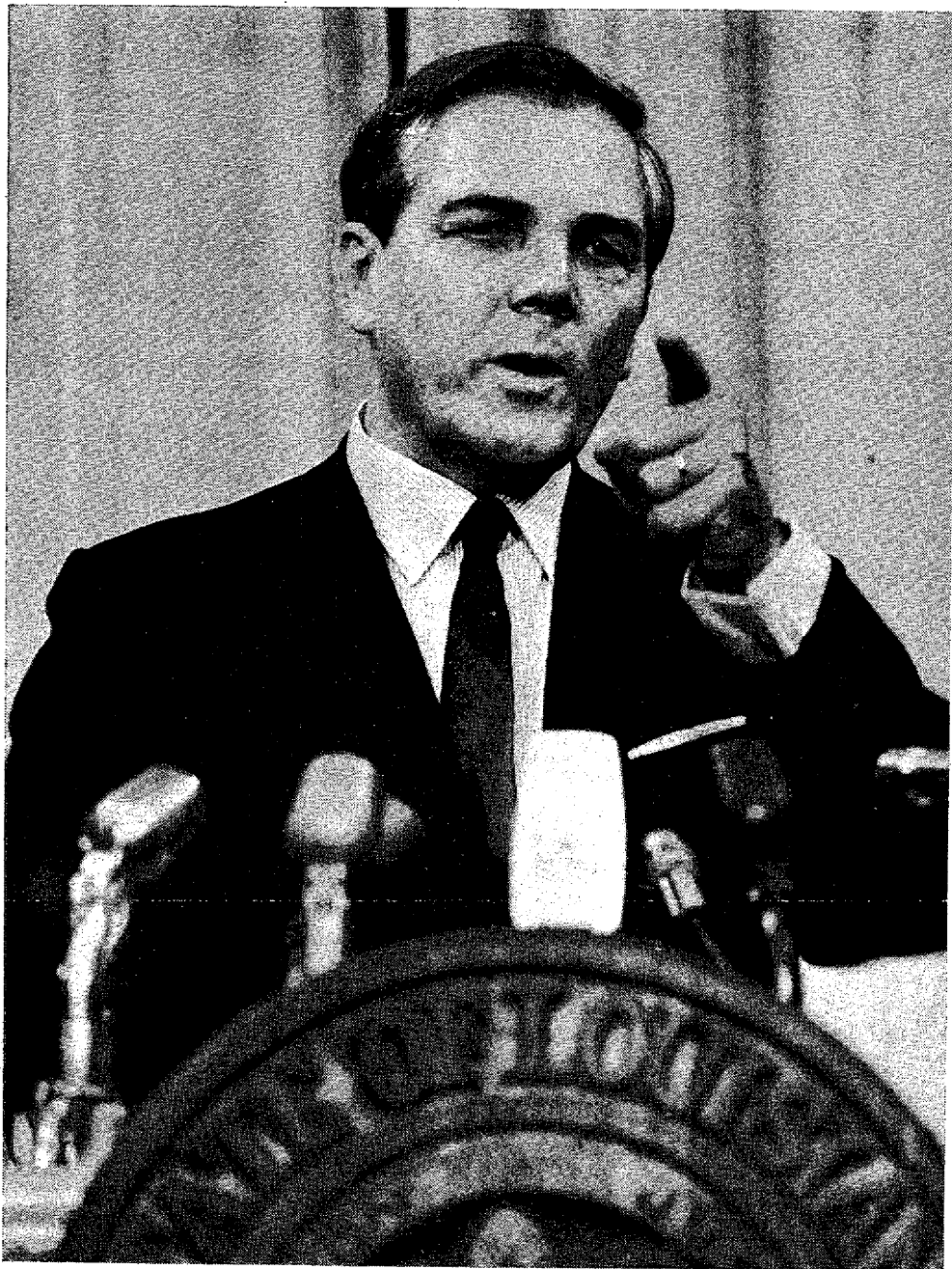
On Aug. 16 Garrison freely admitted to two LIFE reporters, both taking notes, that he had accepted Marino's hospitality—several hundred dollars' worth—and he even produced a copy of one paid-in-full bill. But he denied seeing anything wrong with this. He also denied knowing that Marino had any connection with Marcello—or that it made any difference. "I don't have to worry about things like that," he said. "I've cleaned up the rackets in this town."

Since the publication of LIFE's articles, Garrison has altered that position very substantially in his statements to New Orleans newspapers. "I have never been a guest of mobsters anywhere in my life," he now says. Then he adds, "My record speaks for itself and it should be obvious that mobsters and organized crime have no friend in me."

Thus he hangs his case on unawareness that Marino was and is a mobster—an ignorance easily within his means to correct.

Marino himself isn't talking. He was summoned to appear before the federal grand jury in New Orleans on Aug. 15. He flew from Las Vegas to New Orleans on the night of Aug. 14. At the New Orleans airport he was met by Carlos Marcello's brother Joe, who drove him across the Lake Pontchartrain causeway to Carlos' summer home on Military Road in Covington, La. for a conference with Carlos. The next day, Marino made his appearance before the grand jury in New Orleans, reportedly invoking the Fifth Amendment—for fear of possible self-incrimination—to avoid answering questions about the Sands bills he had picked up for Louisiana friends. One friend he specifically would not talk about was Jim Garrison.

From all appearances, Carlos



Governor McKeithen (*above*) called LIFE's stories a smear, offered to resign if they were proved true, as did New Orleans D.A. Garrison (*below*).

Marcello's racket operations have been curtailed only slightly—if at all—since the LIFE disclosures. For example, LIFE investigators visited and photographed the interior of the gleaming Speakeasy casino near Lafayette, La., one of Marcello's gambling interests. As soon as the picture appeared in the magazine, The Speakeasy abruptly was closed. Its proprietor, Richard Kent, claimed there had never been any gambling in his place, and he denied any connection or acquaintance with Marcello. The lock was barely turned at The Speakeasy, however, before a gambling casino opened at the Turf Club nearby—operated by the same Richard Kent. Like The Speakeasy, the Turf Club is in the Louisiana state police district com-

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manded by Captain Roland Coppola, a long-time friend of Carlos Marcello.

Marcello-controlled brothels and gambling joints in Vidalia, La. also continue to flourish.

Three illegal bookie rings backed by Marcello still operate in Garrison's own Orleans Parish. The bosses of the horse-and-sports betting operations are Frank Timphony, Sam DiPiazza and Sammy Marcello, another brother of Carlos. Runners for the Timphony and DiPiazza rings use the public telephones in the Fontainebleu Hotel in Orleans Parish.

In the same Aug. 16 interview in which he admitted to the LIFE reporters that Marino had arranged his freeloader at The Sands, Garrison claimed never to have heard of Timphony. When the reporters pressed the point, Garrison put through a call in their presence to his former chief investigator, Pershing Gervais, who promptly assured him that Timphony was and still is one of the biggest bookies in New Orleans. Thus it took the D.A. but one phone call to verify a fact he now blandly denies—that organized

crime exists in New Orleans.

Garrison has now initiated his own grand jury investigation into LIFE's disclosures. Paraphrasing the governor's promise, he says, "If organized crime is found [by the grand jury] to be flourishing, I will resign as district attorney."

Governor McKeithen's repeated implication is that Carlos Marcello is a sort of mobster emeritus, a pesky ex-racketeer whose presence is an embarrassment to public officials, who are powerless to do anything about him because he has gone legitimate. This is refutable on many levels, none more authoritative than the Department of Justice.

In a working paper prepared for the President's Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice, entitled "Organization and Operation of La Cosa Nostra," the Department lists the members of the Cosa Nostra Commission (LIFE, Sept. 1) and Cosa Nostra leaders in 17 U.S. cities. For some cities there are qualifying phrases: "is said to be," "reputedly," etc.

There is no equivocation in the report when it comes to Cosa Nostra in New Orleans:

"Carlos Marcello is still the leader in the New Orleans area."



Captain Roland Coppola of the Louisiana State Police, who is shown counting his winnings at Evangeline Downs race track, is a long-time friend of Carlos Marcello. He commands the district where Marcello is expanding his gambling network.

Croupier Red Rhodes worked at the Speakeasy in St. Martin's Parish last summer. The Speakeasy was closed after LIFE story, so Rhodes moved on to the Hat and Cane near Opelousas.



**'Carlos Marcello is
still the leader'**