

Coppola Re By State

NEW
STATES

VOL. 91—NO. 131 FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10,

By **BILL LYNCH**
(States-Item Bureau)

BATON ROUGE—The State Civil Service Commission today ordered State Police Capt. Roland F. Coppola restored to his duties as commander of Troop I in Lafayette.

Coppola was suspended in September at the direct request of Gov. John J. McKeithen following disclosures in Life Magazine that he knew underworld figure Carlos Marcello.

An investigation of the state police captain by the commission on governmental ethics was ordered and Coppola was suspended from duty on Sept. 27.

The action followed Gov. McKeithen's dramatic flight to New York to discuss the magazine's articles on underworld influence on government and its charges that organized crime flourished in the state.

The Civil Service Commission held a hearing last Tuesday at Coppola's request.

The commission ruled that under its regulations, a suspended Civil Service employe must be given a reason for the suspension.

The only reason given Coppola was that he was being relieved of his duties pending the investigation by the State Ethics Commission.

Apparently the Civil Service Commission felt this was in-

sufficient grounds for suspension.

The reinstatement was effective immediately.

IN ITS opinion, the commission said that there was

nothing to prevent the Department of Public Safety from effecting a new suspension provided it gave adequate reasons for such action.

The commission also re-

voked a 30-day extension on Oct. 10. Coppola was ordered restored to duty with full pay and allowances.

Thomas Burbank, director of the State Department of

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Public Safety, said Coppola was being returned to work today. He said he could have issued another suspension but has decided to wait on the Ethics Commission to act.