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A States-Item **FIRST**

# Pitcher Obtains Phone Records

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(States-Item Bureau)

BATON ROUGE—Some telephone records sought for the past seven months have been turned over to the East Baton Rouge Parish district attorney, whose probe of an underworld link to the state Capitol has stretched to New York City, the States-Item learned today.

District Attorney Sargent Pitcher confirmed to the States-Item that he recently received records relating information on the location of various telephones in the governor's office.

Pitcher has been investigating a connection between a telephone purportedly in the office of rackets figure Carlos Marcello from which calls were made to a phone in the Capitol.

THE CALLS allegedly were made to Aubrey Young, former aide to Gov. John J. McKeithen. Young has denied receiving them. The phone was located in the speaker of the House office although it was paid for by funds from the governor's office and maintained for the convenience of C. H. "Sammy" Downs.

Southern Bell Telephone Co. officials, Pitcher said, have turned over a series of work sheets which show information about the types and locations of telephones in the governor's suite.

HE SAID HE has not had them analyzed yet to determine their significance in the investigation but believes they would be of importance to his investigation.

All records pertaining to the two telephones were sought in a subpoena issued by Pitcher last October.

The records turned up after a new investigation by an investigator for the state Labor-Management Commission and state police was started.

RAY BECK, Labor-Management

Commission investigator who has been working with the state police, has been back-tracking on all previous investigations in an effort to solve the mystery of the telephone link.

Pitcher disclosed that he had sent his first assistant, Walter Krousel; Beck and Tom McFerrin, chief counsel for the Labor-Management Commission, to search for the records.

The States-Item learned that the records once were sought in another investigation by the Queens County district attorney's office.

PITCHER SAID that Krousel met with officials of Life magazine, which originally released the information pertaining to the telephone, and with officials in the district attorney's office.

The District attorney has been attempting to get records of toll calls between the Marcello phone and the Capitol phone from the federal government, but without avail.

The Justice Department ob-

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tained a "resume" of the toll records which were subpoenaed by the FBI. A Justice department official informed Pitcher that the copies of the toll records were destroyed by the FBI.

"I DON'T believe it," Pitcher said. "If the records are destroyed it would be highly unusual."

"I have no idea why the FBI would want to destroy the records or why Clark and Vinson didn't answer my letter for two months," Pitcher said.

Pitcher had requested in February in a letter to U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark that he be furnished the missing documents and Clark's assistant Fred Vinson replied in April that they had been destroyed, except for a survey of the findings.

PITCHER SAID that the Justice Department has not yet acted on his request to see the results.

He said he received a call last week from Michael Epstein, the Justice Department attorney who has been working with the New Orleans Grand Jury in a related probe, that the survey would be available.

Krousel has been in touch with Epstein, but thus far has not received the records, Pitcher said.

HE SAID THAT Krousel conferred with a Life magazine editor named Cussell Sackett in New York and when he showed him Vinson's letter on destruction of the records, he said the editor replied: "My God, why would they do that?"

Life is being sued for \$5 million by Young as a result of the allegations about the phone calls. Young has insisted all along that he did not receive any calls on that phone.

The records which the phone company has just produced were not where they would normally be and had only recently turned up, Pitcher said. He said he had been advised of the discovery by the telephone company's counsel.