

McKeithen Says Partin Probe Not Linked to Hoffa

Explains Investigation to Walter Sheridan

Gov. John J. McKeithen said Tuesday that he met with television newsman Walter Sheridan to assure the Justice Department that Louisiana's investigation of Baton Rouge Teamster leader Edward G. Partin had nothing to do with the case of Teamster boss James A. Hoffa.

The governor said in an interview at the Roosevelt Hotel that Sheridan, former member of the Justice Department, was partially responsible for Hoffa's conviction.

The Justice Department was concerned about the investigation of Partin, McKeithen said, and was afraid it might lead to Hoffa's release from prison.

He said the state had no connections whatsoever in any effort to free Hoffa from prison. However, the state is not going to allow Partin "open season" just because he helped to convict Hoffa, the governor said.

Partin's testimony, clinched conviction on jury

McKeithen said he specifically said Sheridan if the government wanted Partin. Sheridan couldn't expect that," McKeithen

McKeithen, wanted to Partin being Hoffa. t huge

sums of money and pressure were being exerted to free Hoffa, the governor said.

Commenting on the mine disaster at Belle Isle which cost 21 lives, the governor said he expects some laws to be

enacted regulating salt mining. Recommendations from the U.S. Bureau of Mines would be considered before any action, he said.

On the subject of new taxes, McKeithen indicated he pre-

ferred a tax on alcoholic beverages rather than on gasoline.

Reasons he cited for the need of additional taxation were the increase in state employes' and teachers' pay, more funds for Delgado College and Louisiana

State University in New Orleans, funds for the New Orleans Mississippi River Bridge approaches and a new highway along the west bank of the river.

McKeithen indicated that proposed salary increases for the governor and lieutenant governor may be considered in the May session of the Legislature