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## MCC ENDORSES RACKETS PROBE

### Letter to Aycock Backs Senate Resolution

In a letter to Lt. Gov. C. C. "Taddy" Aycock, president of the State Senate, the Metropolitan Crime Commission endorsed Sen. John G. Schwegmann's resolution for a Senate investigation into racketeering.

The letter, dated June 28 and signed by Aaron M. Kohn, managing director, and Dr. J. D. Grey, president, reads as follows:

"The Metropolitan Crime Commission urges adoption of Sen. John G. Schwegmann's resolution for the establishment of a Senate Investigatory Committee to conduct a thorough probe of gambling, prostitution, and other forms of racketeering, and the adequacy of present authority and policies of the Louisiana State Police to effectively suppress racketeering in the state.

"Gov. John J. McKeithen has repeatedly warned that crime, in all its forms, now requires priority attention as a critical threat to the safety and freedoms of the people. He has established, as a temporary arm of his executive responsibilities, a State Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice. This commission gives promise of eventual major contributions to better understanding and better control of the causes and corrections of crime.

#### DEMAND RESOURCES

"But the overwhelming problems of crime and disorder in our time demand the application of all available resources in order to bring about those changes in laws and proce-

dures which are most likely to change the rising tide of criminality. Legislative fact-finding, as suggested by Sen. Schwegmann, provides an important potential for complementing the work of the governor's commission.

"We believe that investigation by a Senate committee, to determine the need for new laws and regulations to challenge the growth of crime, would serve the public need not only by examining the scope and enforcement problems of organized gambling and prostitution, but should be extended also to the following areas:

"—Narcotics traffic.

"—Traffic in firearms and other weapons.

"—Loansharking.

"—Administrative regulations to prevent infiltration and victimization of legitimate business by racketeers.

"—Corruption of youth by racketeering enterprises.

"—Racketeering influence on elections through campaign financing.

"—Methods of increasing professional competence and independence of state law enforcement agencies.

#### INCREASED CONCERN

"Encouragement can be found in some degree of increased concern for crime problems in our state. The Legislature can help, through its investigatory powers, to provide authentic measurement of our crime conditions, as well as new laws and authority to correct our past failures. Because crime does pay, in our time, it creates incentive for more crime. Innovations must be developed if there is to be a reduction in the constantly growing threat against the safety of the individual and his property.

"Organized crime and racketeering are now acknowledged to be major destructive forces in Louisiana. They are nurtured by traditional attitudes and the absence of law enforcement powers and methods to deal with them. Now is the time to create realistic laws and policies.

"The suggested Senate investigatory committee can be the means of identifying new anti-crime solutions and initiating them, in the public interest.

"By resolution of the board of directors on June 27, 1968."

Copies of the letter were sent to all Louisiana state senators, Gov. McKeithen, and Gen. Thomas D. Burbank, director of the Louisiana Department of Safety.