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Marcello Now Legitimate --McKeithen

(Special to the States-Item)

ASHEVILLE, N. C. — Gov. John J. McKeithen said here that reports reaching him indicate reputed crime bigwig Carlos Marcello is no longer connected with the rackets.

The governor, who said the FBI keeps his office constantly advised about crime in the state, declared that Marcello's activities are purely legitimate.

Despite this, the chief executive added, he wished the Jefferson Parish resident would move away from Louisiana and "stop giving the state a bad name."

Marcello was named recently by a national magazine as the Cosa Nostra crime lord of the New Orleans area. The article has prompted an investigation by Orleans Parish Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison.

McKeithen said the FBI is aware that his administration is doing all it can to control racketeering and crime in the state. He asserted there is no organized racketeering in the state with the exception of illegal labor union activities in the Baton Rouge area.