

# McKeithen, 5-1 MCC Huddle In Closed Meet

9/21/67

Gov. John J. McKeithen held a long closed-door meeting today with members of the Metropolitan Crime Commission.

The governor and the MCC leaders huddled at International House in a session that began at 10 a. m. and was still going well after 2 p. m.

A States-Item reporter who entered the room was asked to leave. A commission member said:

"This is a very important meeting for the crime commission and we feel for the governor, too."

THE MEETING was called to air the MCC charges that organized crime abounds in Louisiana.

McKeithen has denied that any organized crime exists in state government and says he doesn't know of any in the state.

However, the commission, headed by Aaron Kohn, assisted Life Magazine in preparing an article that reported instances of racketeering influences in the state.

Later today, Kohn was due

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to appear before the Orleans Parish grand jury in connection with District Attorney Jim Garrison's investigation into the same matter.

M'KEITHEN SAID earlier he intended to hold a conference with the MCC to hear what evidence the group might have to support his

charges.

Shortly after the magazine article appeared, the governor met for four hours with MCC leaders in Baton Rouge. After that meeting, the governor announced that a newly created division of the state police would investigate organized crime influences.

Earlier, the governor had called the article a "smear" and said anyone responsible for it "should be run out of Louisiana."