
MARCELLO CALLS CITED

M'Keithen, Rarick Discuss La. Crime

Gov. John J. McKeithen says there is no doubt that telephone calls from Carlos Marcello came either to his office in Baton Rouge or to the office next door.

The governor spoke in Baton Rouge at a meeting of the Louisiana Association of Electric Cooperatives, as did his opponent in the Nov. 4 Democratic race, Rep. John Rarick.

Both discussed the crime probe in the state.

RARICK, WHO SPOKE first, said the people of Louisiana are being hoodwinked. He charged the governor with sacrificing administration friends to shield himself in the racketeering probe.

If the federal government is interested in combating crime, Rarick said amplifying his attack, its grand juries should be investigating gambling, illicit dope traffic and some interstate prostitution rings operating in Louisiana.

The governor answered his opponent's charges by saying he would never betray the people's confidence in him by having any connection with racketeers.

"If your faith in me has been shaken at all," he said, "I want you to know you are looking at a man who has never had anything to do with them (racketeers), and I will never have anything to do with them."

HE SAID HIS administration started the present grand jury investigations into the influence of racketeering in state government.

Referring to the reported phone calls from Marcello to the governor's office, McKeithen said they were made. The office next to his at the time the alleged calls were placed was that of the House speaker.

There have been published reports that another aide to McKeithen, not Aubrey Young, who has admitted receiving some calls from Marcello, was assigned the unlisted telephone, and that a secretary who tended the phone locked it inside a cabinet each night.
