

O'Hara Ouster Move Tossed Back to MCC

(States-Item Bureau)

BATON ROUGE — Efforts to remove New Orleans Criminal Court Judge Malcolm V. O'Hara from office were tossed back to the Metropolitan Crime Commission today by Gov. John J. McKeithen.

The governor told a press conference that the law requires the attorney general to initiate an investigation of a judge if the governor or 25 citizens request it.

M'KEITHEN said he feels the MCC has not exhausted its local remedies.

O'Hara testified at a Chicago federal court hearing on a bid by Teamster leader James Hoffa to win freedom from prison that he had been the companion of a convicted man.

The governor said his office does not have the authority to probe the judge's conduct.

He said the MCC asked him to write Attorney General Jack P. F. Gremillion to initiate the investigation, but he is suggesting that the commission collect 25 names and make the same request.

Asked for his opinion on the propriety of O'Hara consorting with a convicted man, the governor replied:

"My opinion is not good."

McKeithen was quoted a week ago as saying after a meeting with the MCC that he would investigate Judge

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O'Hara if requested, but said this morning he had said then he would consider it.

The governor said further that he did not want to prejudge any case for removal that might be brought against the judge.