

'EVIDENCE FOUND OF WRONGDOING'

Says Chairman of La. In-
quiry Unit

By C. M. HARGRODER

(Times-Picayune Staff Correspondent)

BATON ROUGE, La. — Evidence of wrongdoing — which may or may not have resulted from public hearings—has been found by the Labor-Management Commission of inquiry, a spokesman said Tuesday.

Dr. F. Jay Taylor, chairman of the commission, told newsmen after a closed door meeting that chief legal counsel Thomas McFerrin has been instructed to turn over the matters to "appropriate prosecuting authorities."

Taylor said the commission began work on a report to Gov. John J. McKeithen which they expect to present "shortly after the Legislature convenes."

NO ELABORATION

Taylor would not elaborate on possible criminal acts or violations of labor laws except to say that the commission "came to the conclusion that grounds do exist for prosecution." He first indicated that such references were the result of public hearings. When questioned further, he later changed his statement to say from evidence in the hands of the commission—indicating some of the alleged offenses have not heretofore been publicized.

Taylor also released a statement from Dr. Paul M. Hebert, vice-chairman of the commission, who Tuesday reconsidered a move he announced Monday to strike from the commission's records of a Monday hearing the prepared statement read to them by Edward Grady Partin, business manager of Teamster Local No. 5, which Hebert claimed was not germane to the proceedings.

Hebert told the commission

his action stemmed from further consideration of a Louisiana statute which recognizes the right of personal appearance "when adverse testimony has been received which may affect the reputation of an individual."

'SHOULD REMAIN'

Despite "certain irrevelancies," Hebert said the statement should be allowed to remain in the record. In any event, he continued, "its inconsistencies are such that the statement, in large part, falls of its own weight."

Taylor said the commission also discussed plans for a permanent staff organization, and future plans of the commission itself. He said no date has been set for further public hearings.

The commission began its hearings after it was created by Gov. McKeithen in September 1967, the result of a special session of the Legislature last summer. Its job was to inquire into conditions which led to a complete shutdown last July of industrial construction in this area, with powers to refer wrongdoing to appropriate authorities.