

# SCHWEGMANN TELLS THREAT

Warned of Death After  
Urging Rackets Probe

State Sen. John G. Schwegmann, who has urged the Senate to launch a racketeering probe, said Friday that his life was threatened.

The threat came the day after Schwegmann asked Louisiana senators to investigate why gambling and other vices can continue in Louisiana without interference by police.

An anonymous telephone caller threatened Schwegmann at his residence late Thursday night.

Schwegmann recounted: "It was 11:40 p.m. I was reading and I answered the telephone when it rang. I said 'hello' and there was no answer. I said 'hello' again and a man's voice told me: 'If you go through with this investigation you will be a dead senator.'"

Schwegmann said he wrote the message down and called the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's office. They came out to the house, he said, but were unable to determine who made the call.

## MADE ADDRESS

The legislator said the caller apparently was referring to his address to the Senate calling for a three-man special Senate investigating committee to look into the apparent flagrant violations of gambling and other vice

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that is allowed to continue in Louisiana.

On Wednesday Schwegmann read a lengthy resolution he had prepared charging "inability on the part of law enforcement officials at the local and-or troop level to effectively enforce the criminal laws of our state."

The resolution made reference to wide open gambling and other criminal activities observed by The Times-Picayune's news reporters. The resolution stated that all enforcement personnel of the Division of State Police of the Department of Public Safety have taken an oath required by law to uphold the laws of the state.

The full text of Schwegmann's resolution appeared in The Times-Picayune on Wednesday morning, the day the senator read his statement to the Senate.

The Schwegmann charges and suggestions were referred to the Senate's Committee on Health and Welfare. On Monday Public Safety Director Thomas D.

Burbank is scheduled to appear before the committee to answer Schwegmann's charges.

The Schwegmann resolution did not obtain consideration on the Senate floor.

## LITTLE HOPE

The senator said Friday that he has little hope that any action will come from the committee meeting. The Committee on Health and Welfare, he said, "is stacked. There are a lot of administration men on the committee," he added.

Asked if he feels that Gov. John J. McKeithen is not interested in an investigation of his charges, Schwegmann said he didn't know.

He said that the law violations concerning gambling and his other charges must have some sanction since they are allowed to continue.

About the threat on his life Schwegmann commented that he doesn't "like this thing at all."

He said he feels that he may not get support for his suggestion of a three-man committee investigation into gambling violations.

Some senators have told him, "Keep with it, John. They patted me on the back Wednesday but I cannot tell you who they were, I don't know them", he said.

He said he has had some private encouragement from other senators. But no one has stood with him publicly.

Schwegmann is serving his first term in the Senate. He had previously served two terms in the House.