

# GAMBLING IN LOUISIANA WILL HALT--M'KEITHEN

TP 9/28/67

## Says All Crime Target of State Crackdown



**CAPT. ROLAND COPPOLA**  
Suspension order issued.

Gov. John J. McKeithen Wednesday said in Baton Rouge that he has ordered a meeting of State Police captains Thursday morning, and declared that gambling in Louisiana is a thing of the past.

Later he amplified this and said it included prostitution as well.

Following his return from a New York conference with Life Magazine, McKeithen went into a huddle with East Baton Rouge Parish Dist. Atty. Sargent Pitcher and Director of Public Safety Thomas D. Burbank.

McKeithen said State Police Capt. Roland Coppola, Lafayette State Police commander, has been suspended pending investigation of his alleged association with Carlos Marcello.

### NO OFFICIAL WORD

However, in Lafayette, Capt. Coppola said Wednesday night that he had not received official word from Gov. McKeithen on his suspension.

"Until I am officially notified, I have no comment to make," said the captain.

McKeithen also said he had ordered a State Police security guard for his former aid, Aubrey Young, committed to Southeast Louisiana Hospital at Mandeville, because he feared for Young's life.

McKeithen said his conference with Life Magazine Tuesday revealed numerous telephone calls from Marcello to Young while the latter was still a member of the governor's staff. He



**AUBREY YOUNG**  
Given security guard.

said that while he did not know the purpose of the calls, he assumed they related to attempts to cause Edward G. Partin, Baton Rouge Teamster official, to change his testimony which helped convict Teamster boss James Hoffa.

Pitcher was on hand, McKeithen said, because possibly there was a bribe or attempted bribe which occurred in this parish. Pitcher was non-committal about plans to call the grand jury.

As for Young, who the governor said was committed by Mrs. W. E. Young, Monroe, his mother, it was "a tragic case, but it's beyond sympathy now . . . we are fearful for his life. We think he may have information we need to put some big people in the state penitentiary."

"All the gambling—if any—will be closed tomorrow," the governor vowed. Asked if this meant he was abandoning his policy of home rule—non-intervention by State Police and dependence on local officials

Cont. in Sec. 1, Page 3, Col. 1

# LA. GAMBLING TO END--GOVERNOR

Continued from Page 1

for enforcement—he replied “Yes, sir.”

## TAKE RESPONSIBILITY

In view of “notoriety” of publication of allegations of vice in Louisiana, McKeithen expanded, he had advised Burbank “we, the state, would take personal responsibility” for closing gambling. He added that if local of-



**CARLOS MARCELLO**  
Probe figure.

officials failed to enforce the law “we will embarrass them . . . we will embarrass them every day.”

Later, the governor said his orders on gambling also pertained to prostitution and any other form of crime covered by law.

As for gambling in the past, he confessed “state police aren’t to blame for it. . . I am responsible for it.”

Referring to Coppola and his alleged association with Marcello, the governor said his suspension was to allow an investigation, and while he did not want to prejudge him, he was asking the Commission on Governmental Ethics to look into the case.

Referring to Young again, McKeithen said “there’s no question that Col. Young deceived me. He was almost like a member of my family.”

## OBVIOUSLY STUNNED

Asked about others in state government who might have associations with known criminals, McKeithen replied he would not

hesitate to remove anyone who might bring “disrepute” on the state by their associations.

The phone calls between Marcello and Young, he said, constituted evidence that was “overwhelming,” even though he said he did not have an idea what the calls were about. “Our job is to find out what those calls were about and we propose to do that,” said McKeithen.

Late Wednesday morning, McKeithen held a brief press conference at the New Orleans International Airport and vowed to “clean this state up.” He candidly admitted the first place he would start would be his own office.

McKeithen, obviously stunned at material shown here by Life Magazine editor, said at a press conference on his return from New York that he is determined to find out what Young said in alleged telephone conversations with Marcello.

“I assume he (Young) will tell us what was discussed,” said McKeithen. “If he doesn’t, he may be going to the penitentiary.”

Young is presently at the state hospital for alcoholics at Mandeville. McKeithen said he had ordered a security guard for Young before he left New York to return here.

## MOTHER CONFIRMS

Meanwhile, Mrs. W. E. Young, Monroe, mother of Aubrey Young, confirmed that she had her son committed to the hospital.

Asked if Gov. McKeithen had suggested it to her, Mrs. Young said, “I’d rather not discuss that. Aubrey is ill and is in the hospital . . . and coming along very nicely.”

Mrs. Young said she had talked to her son Wednesday.

“Mr. Young will have the opportunity to turn state’s evidence if he wants to,” said McKeithen.

“We can’t help but believe there was some bribery going on,” said McKeithen. “And if so, we are going to indict them.”

## UPTON ACCOMPANIED

McKeithen, who had been critical of Life’s probe into Lou-

isiana and called it a "smear campaign," said he had privately apologized to Life editors before he returned. "They could have smeared us a lot worse than they did," said McKeithen.

The governor was accompanied on the surprise trip by E. C. Upton Jr., president of the Metropolitan Crime Commission of New Orleans Inc.

McKeithen said Life has no "hard evidence" of any wrongdoing by Coppola. He said Coppola was suspended for his "associations." "I don't think he should be captain," added McKeithen.

#### 'NOT IN LAFAYETTE'

Wednesday night, Lafayette Mayor J. Rayburn Bertrand, following McKeithen's suspension order for Coppola, said that he intended to keep Lafayette free from organized gambling.

Bertrand said that the current issue of Life, which identifies gambling casinos as being in or near Lafayette, is incorrect. The establishments mentioned, he added, "are not in the city of Lafayette, nor for that matter are they within the boundaries of Lafayette Parish."

Those named in the Life article are the Speak Easy near Cade, La., in St. Martin Parish, and The Turf, over the line in St. Landry Parish. The Speak Easy is within Capt. Coppola's Troop I jurisdiction.

According to McKeithen, he will ask for the cooperation of "district attorneys and sheriffs" in the crime crackdown and "I believe I will get it," he said.

#### GOING TO CLEAN UP

"You just sit back and watch us the next few days," he admonished reporters. "We are going to clean up this state."

McKeithen was questioned closely about Orleans Parish District Attorney Jim Garrison and Jefferson Parish District Attorney Frank H. Langridge. He said Langridge was not discussed at the meeting.

"I'm going to assume that they will do their duty," said McKeithen of Garrison and Langridge.

McKeithen reiterated that he is convinced Garrison "is not connected with racketeers." But he added that Garrison "may have a chance to prosecute" some of them.

The governor said he believes Garrison is wrong in attacking the Metropolitan

Crime Commission and conversely the MCC is wrong in attacking Garrison.

Speaking of MCC managing director Aaron M. Kohn, McKeithen said, "I don't agree with Mr. Kohn's sensationalism. But I don't have any quarrel with Mr. Kohn and Mr. Upton. I would hope that Mr. Garrison would help us."

McKeithen explained how the meeting with Life editors in New York was arranged.

"We had previously met with the Metropolitan Crime Com-

mission but they had no hard evidence, only general allegations," said McKeithen. "But I was told about Life coming up with specific allegations and hard evidence of the telephone calls between Young and Marcello.

"Life had said they would come to Baton Rouge, but I suggested we wanted this immediately and we would go to New York. So I got Mr. Upton, LSU Law School Dean Paul Hebert, Edward W. Stagg, executive director of the Council for a Better Louisiana, and Camille Gravel, attorney for the state labor rackets commission, and we met with Life people, from the publisher on down.

"They told us they had been investigating crime in Louisiana for almost a year. But I want to emphasize they said that crime is no worse in Louisiana than it's been. I just inherited it. They're not alleging it's worse under my administration."

#### 'BETTER HIDE'

McKeithen called in Upton to say a few words.

"I want to assure you, gentlemen, that all of the people at Life expressed complete confidence in our governor to do the job," said Upton. "The racketeers better hide.

"Speaking for the decent people of the state who appreciate that the governor went up to New York, I am proud to have been a member of the team."

The meeting in New York appeared to be painful to McKeithen — especially to find out about his close friend, Young.

"I went all the way through the 32nd degree Mason with Young," explained McKeithen. "I couldn't believe he would

betray my trust."

McKeithen was asked how this would affect his gubernatorial campaign.

The governor paused for a moment as if in deep thought, then replied, "I don't know . . . I just don't know."

McKeithen added, "I'm not concerned with the campaign now; I just want to clean up this."

#### 'SOME CONNECTIONS'

Then, for probably the first time in public, the strain of the governor's office appeared to weigh heavily on McKeithen. "A lot of times," he said, "I think I'd like to go back to the farm in Columbia."

Always, the press conference returned to Young.

"I asked Ed Stagg if he would have ever thought that Aubrey Young would do me this way," said McKeithen. "You know, Ed was there in my office six months. He said, 'Certainly not.'"

McKeithen said there may be "some connections between crime in Louisiana and the labor investigation in Baton Rouge." But the governor said he could not go into that.

The governor was questioned why State Police Supt. Burbank was not taken on the trip.

#### GIVES ANSWER

McKeithen said he told Burbank "there may be some allegations about the state police" and they agreed that more information could be obtained freely if Burbank did not go along.

The governor said there were no allegations about the state police, except about Coppola.

As the news conference closed and McKeithen was leaving the Eastern Airlines lounge, the governor suggested to a newsman:

"Do you want to be a bodyguard; I think I'm going to need one."

## Governor Promises Quick Crackdown on Crime



**EMPHASIZING A POINT** with raised finger, Gov. John McKeithen promises an immediate crackdown on organized crime in Louisiana at a press conference at New Orleans International Airport Wednesday following his re-

turn from New York where he conferred with editors of Life magazine. E. C. Upton (right), president of the Metropolitan Crime Commission, accompanied McKeithen on the New York trip.

—Photo by The Times-Picayune.

## DA Assails Kohn, Again Denies Claim

Orleans Parish District Attorney Jim Garrison Wednesday denied, as he has on pre-

vious occasions, that any organized crime exists in New Orleans.

The denial, coupled with a verbal attack on Metropolitan Crime Commission Managing Director Aaron M. Kohn, came in the wake of a statement by Gov. John J. McKeithen that he is convinced that elements of organized crime exist in Louisiana.

McKeithen had just returned from a trip to New York where he met with Life Magazine officials who showed him what they called proof of organized crime in the state. The governor has publicly apologized for earlier statements in which he said Life was trying to smear Louisiana's name.

### ISSUES STATEMENT

Garrison issued the following statement Wednesday night:

"I am astonished by Gov. McKeithen's apology to Life Magazine. I do not intend to apologize to Life or anyone else in New York or Washington. Least of all do I intend to work with Aaron Kohn, as the governor has suggested, in any project of any kind.

"In my judgment, Aaron Kohn is a professional liar who lives in a fanciful world surrounded by racketeers and mobsters.

"Kohn, because of his addiction to lying, is the major law enforcement problem in the state of Louisiana. My office has not compromised with professional criminals and we do not intend to compromise with professional liars such as Aaron Kohn.

"As for a drive against organized crime, my office has had such a drive for five years and it has been successful. Every lottery operator in the city of New Orleans has been sent to the penitentiary where not one had ever been sent before.

### 'NEVER MATCHED'

"Every known abortionist has

been sent to the penitentiary where none had ever been sent before. Clip joints have been padlocked when none ever had been padlocked before. We have fought the loan sharks when they have never before been fought.

"The last house of prostitution has been closed down. None of this progress — I repeat — none of it — was made with the help of Aaron Kohn or the Metropolitan Crime Commission. This progress of the last five years has never been matched in the history of New Orleans.

"Is this a city where organized crime is flourishing, where racketeers are in control?

"In many instances Kohn's insincerity and prevarication have served as obstacles to progress and law enforcement. Kohn is in the position of a witch doctor in a town where the witches have moved away; he must continue to create a fear of witches if he is to receive his customary gifts from the people of the village.

### 'JUSTIFY AN INQUIRY'

"As for the governor's statement that organized crime and corruption are flourishing in Louisiana, I am willing to take him at his word. After all, he has been governor for three years and he should know. Such corruption does not exist in the city of New Orleans, however.

"Nevertheless, the charge itself, however ill-founded, is serious enough to justify an inquiry. This is why every relevant witness is being called before the grand jury. We are going to dig into these charges completely. If there is any truth at all to them, then we want the entire truth brought out for the people to see with nothing left hidden.

"If the charges are false, then the people have a right to know who has initiated such false

charges and why they have done this.

"Under no circumstances will I compromise with professional liars like Aaron Kohn. This man has done a great disservice to New Orleans and the entire state of Louisiana by finding a new market for his half-truths and lies. I will not add to his disservice by joining with him or by apologizing to anyone for the city of New Orleans or the state of Louisiana."