



—AP WIREPHOTO.  
 GOV. JOHN M'KEITHEN (left) tells reporters in New Orleans Thursday that he is taking steps to form a state crime commission while E. C. Upton Jr. (right), president of the Metropolitan Crime Commission of New Orleans, Inc., listens. McKeithen made the announcement after a four-hour huddle with commission officials who allege organized crime flourishes in Louisiana.

## Governor to Name State Anti-Crime Commission

T.P. *gulf*  
 Announces Plans After  
 MCC Session Here

By PAUL ATKINSON

Gov. John J. McKeithen said here Thursday that he will appoint a statewide crime commission. McKeithen made the announcement after a marathon, often-loud, four-hour conference with the Metropolitan Crime Commission of New Orleans Inc.

McKeithen made no appointments to the proposed commission, which he said would have no subpoena power but would be a planning and study body against crime. However, he said that MCC president E. C. Upton Jr. will be an "ex-officio member" of the commission.

The governor and the MCC group met at International House behind closed doors. They gathered at 10 a. m., broke for lunch in a private dining room, resumed and finally ended the discussion about 2:30 p. m.

Afterward, in an interview, McKeithen was asked if he would characterize the meeting as "stormy."

"Oh, no," he replied, "it was harmonious."

However, reporters heard Upton, MCC managing director Aaron M. Kohn and McKeithen raising their voices.

"We covered just about everything in the state that has to do with crime and crime prevention," the governor said. "And we are all convinced we want the same thing—to be free of corruption."

### PLANS CHECK

McKeithen said there are two state commissions that bear looking into and he said he as-

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## M'KEITHEN CRIME UNIT

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sured the MCC he would check formation it worked up for the the members of the commis-

sions. Pressed for the commis- article.  
sions to which he referred, Mc-  
Keithen said, "I'd rather not say  
which commissions they are."

The governor continued, "We  
may tip them. At the same time,  
we want to be careful not to  
sensationalize on somebody who  
might be innocent."

His new commission, called  
the Governor's Commission on  
Law Enforcement and Ad-  
ministration of Justice, will  
be appointed within the next  
two weeks. Tentative plans  
call for it to include between  
11 and 15 governmental of-  
ficials and community leaders.

McKeithen said he plans to  
seek federal funds to support  
the commission's work and ask  
the state Legislature to ap-  
propriate additional money. In  
the meantime, the commis-  
sion's work would be financed  
by existing state money.

The governor restated  
strongly his belief that the  
Life Magazine article which  
alleged crime flourishes in  
Louisiana has hurt the state's  
image deeply. "As I go out  
over the United States, I've  
got to answer that Life ar-  
ticle," said McKeithen.

McKeithen said he received a  
message from Life Magazine  
that representatives of it would  
like to see him next week and  
reveal the organized crime in-

The governor said that he  
would receive the Life repre-  
sentatives. "I'm anxious to see  
the information they have,"  
said McKeithen.

Speaking of the meeting with  
the MCC, McKeithen said he  
told the commission that he has  
"confidence in District Atty.  
Jim Garrison's integrity."

"I also told the commission  
that I am convinced Mr. Gar-  
rison is not connected with the  
Mafia," added McKeithen.

The Life article referred to  
Garrison's associations with al-  
leged Mafia-connected people.  
Last week the MCC said it gave  
Life Magazine some of the in-  
formation used for the story.

McKeithen denied he ever  
called the MCC group "traitors"  
to Louisiana for assisting with  
the article.

"What I said was that whom-  
ever gave Life the information  
for the article did the state of  
Louisiana a disservice," ex-  
plained McKeithen. "And I said,  
if the shoe fits, wear it."

Asked why he felt Life  
"smeared" Louisiana, McKeith-  
en said, "It may have some-  
thing to do with Garrison's in-  
dictment of Walter Sheridan  
(National Broadcasting Com-  
pany investigator) or it could be  
that they felt Louisiana was get-  
ting too much favorable publici-  
ty lately. They just wanted to  
knock a poor southern state  
down."