

S-1 6-24-68

SCHEME TO M'KEITHEN

By **BILL LYNCH**

(States-Item Bureau)

BATON ROUGE —

State and federal police officials have informed Gov. John J. McKeithen of reports that a plan has been made to assassinate him in connection with the state labor-management antirackets investigation, the States-Item learned today.

Gov. McKeithen confirmed that he had been told about the reports.

Tom McFerrin, chief counsel for the Labor-Management Commission, also confirmed that an informant unveiled a threat involving a

“contract to murder” the governor.

Later, McKeithen promised “sensational developments in a short time” by the Labor-Management Commission.

REPORTS ALSO have been

received independently by the state police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, it was learned.

The reports began cropping up about three weeks ago and have been recurring since then.

MURDER REVEALED

There was one report that an ex-convict had been hired to kill the governor while he was in Alabama on June 10-11 for the Interstate Oil Compact Commission meeting.

SINCE THE REPORTS began coming in, the governor's

security guard has been greatly increased.

Gen. Thomas D. Burbank, director of public safety, said increased security has been given Gov. McKeithen because of recent threats.

Burbank said, "Two such

threats were received by the FBI in New Orleans and forwarded to my office.

"There have been two other threats other than the two reported by the FBI, and surveillance of persons is being

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conducted at this time."

Burbank said, "Because of the nature of this type of police action, no other information can be divulged at this time."

He added that further information "could be forthcoming in a matter of three or four days."

The state Labor - Management Commission has charged 19 persons with more than 100 counts of violating the law as a result of its year-old investigation into labor racketeering in the Baton Rouge industrial area.

M'KEITHEN SAID reports were that persons opposing the investigation feel it could not be stopped any way other than by killing him.

McFerrin said that one of his men had picked up a rumor about the plot and that an informant for the commission brought information to him.

He said he promptly turned the informant and information over to the state police, which is charged with the governor's security.

HE SAID HE did not go into details about the information but at that time the report was that someone was trying to get a "contract" on McKeithen's life.

In addition, the state police are investigating a number of anonymous phone calls received at the governor's mansion.

The governor flew to Mobile, Ala., June 10 for the Interstate Oil Compact Commission meeting and attended a reception there given by the Alabama governor. McKeithen flew in the chief executive's jet plane.

He stayed overnight at a Mobile hotel and then left, after a luncheon, for Atlanta, Ga., and another meeting.

THERE WERE NO untoward incidents reported while McKeithen was in Alabama.

He was accompanied there by Mrs. McKeithen and at least two regular attending state troopers.

The reports on the plan were received while he was in

Alabama.

McKeithen has been making a number of speeches throughout the country in a move toward a vice presidential bid under the banner of Vice President Hubert Humphrey.

ALTHOUGH Congress has authorized the deployment of Secret Service personnel to

guard major presidential candidates, none have been assigned to any prospective vice presidential candidates.

It was the second reported plot against a man's life in connection with the labor-management investigation.

Earlier a convict with a long record, Billy Simpson, won a parole from the state parole board because of an alleged plot to murder him at Angola.

Simpson, a former close associate of Teamster boss Edward Grady Partin, has become one of the commission's chief informants in the case.

He was under sentence for burglary and after being transferred to Angola he was hustled away within an hour by the Labor - Management Commission after the governor prevailed on the parole board to release him.

THE FBI IN New Orleans confirmed that it had passed on information of an assassination plot to state authorities.

"The only comment we can make," said a bureau spokesman, "is that whenever we receive information concerning a threat, it is immediately given without evaluation to local authorities.

"In this case the information was sent immediately to state police. We did not make any evaluation on it. We follow this procedure in all similar type matters."