

TRY O'HARA CASE
GOVERNOR ASKED

MCC Requests Steps to
Oust Orleans Judge

Gov. John J. McKeithen was asked by the Metropolitan Crime Commission to begin proceedings to have Orleans Parish Criminal District Court Judge Malcolm V. O'Hara removed from office.

Here is part of the text of the letter the MCC dispatched to McKeithen:

"On behalf of the entire membership of the MCC, we express our appreciation for the spirit and candidness of your meeting with eight of our officers Wednesday in the governor's mansion.

"At this time we wish to confirm and supplement our discussion on the subject of Criminal District Court Judge Malcolm V. O'Hara.

ASKS PROCEEDINGS

"One immediate step which can be taken to use existing state laws against organized crime is clear in the case of Judge O'Hara. His own testimony, and that of Zachary A. Strate Jr., in the federal district court in Chicago, Ill., last month confirms, at least in part, statements published in Life Magazine.

"According to the sworn testimony, Judge O'Hara betrayed his trust as an elected judicial officer by serving as a 'companion' to, and 'messenger' for, a felon convicted in the federal courts on multiple offenses which constitute labor racketeering.

"We respectfully request that proceedings be initiated for the removal of Judge O'Hara from state office."

A spokesman for the governor said Friday night that McKeithen had received the MCC material on Judge O'Hara and had turned the material over to William Redmann, executive

counsel to the governor:

Redmann will study the material, the spokesman added, and consult with McKeithen on it. The spokesman said McKeithen plans to make a statement on the matter within the next few days.

QUOTE CONSTITUTION

Quoting from the Louisiana Constitution, the MCC letter stated, "The section on impeachment and removal from office provides that all state and district offices, whether elected or appointed, shall be liable to impeachment for high crimes and misdemeanors in office, incompetence, corruption, favoritism, extortion and oppression in office, or for gross misconduct or habitual drunkenness."

The constitution gives power to the Louisiana Supreme Court to conduct a hearing if the state attorney general requests one, the commission said.

"We respectfully request that you formally instruct Atty. Gen. Jack P. F. Gremlion to begin a hearing before the State Supreme Court where all evidence and witnesses can be produced for judgment of that court," concluded the MCC letter.