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**OFFER INCLUDED
TEAMSTER BOSS**

**McKeithen Tells of Labor
Probe Difficulties**

By PAUL ATKINSON
Gov. John J. McKeithen said Tuesday that Baton Rouge Teamster boss Edward G. Partin was only "one of several people" who were offered immunity last year if they would tell what they knew of labor troubles in the area.
Adding another detail, the governor said there was also a provision that Partin leave the state. "I said that I would recommend to the Labor Management Commission that whatever charges they had against Mr. Partin and
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Teamsters Union Local No. 5 be dropped," said McKeithen.

But McKeithen said he wouldn't make the same offer now.

McKeithen, who had just finished a meeting of the domed stadium commission in the City Hall council chamber, also had these observations:

— Everything has been done at the state level to offset the Department of Health, Education and Welfare's stringent school desegregation guidelines. "The only answer lies in Washington, D.C.," he said. "I don't have any answers to it." He said some parishes are seriously considering calling special elections to recall the one-cent sales tax they passed to aid public education.

HANDS OFF

— He will keep hands off the 1969 mayor's race in New Orleans and not endorse anyone. "If I endorsed anyone, it probably would ruin his name," said McKeithen with a smile.

—Property tax equalization will not come in Louisiana until the state is forced to do it. "I'm saying I don't think we can do it and I hate to have

to admit it," said the governor. "I don't think we can do it until we are made to do it."

—He has no designs on United States Senate seat. "I'm going back to Columbia—If I can get there in one piece—when all this is over, start practicing law again and live on my farm," said McKeithen. "We have an incumbent Senator (Allen J. Ellender) running for re-election in 1972 who no one has made a strong race against since he's been there. I'm no one who likes to be beaten. I don't know whether I aspire to election in the Senate and have serious reservations over whether I could be elected."

STADIUM, REFORMS

—He sees no reason to repeal the two-term amendment for governor. "There were a lot of things I did I couldn't have done as a lame duck governor," explained McKeithen. "The domed stadium was one. Our administration put in more state government reforms than all the other governors combined and many of these we couldn't have done without the two-term amendment.

"Not being a lame duck governor gave me unusual prestige and stature four years ago. I could provide not only leadership but effective leadership. I can feel it now . . . I'm not nearly the great man I was four years ago. I'm just the governor and we are looking for (C. C.) Taddy Aycok, Jamar Adcock and John S. Garrett and so on."

Here is how McKeithen told of the offer with Partin:

"We tried from the very beginning to get someone we felt in that Baton Rouge mess to come in and tell all. Two or three times we almost made it. Twice we had men who were prepared to turn complete state's evidence on a promise of complete immunity from us.

CITES LAWSUIT

"Ever since we started the investigation, we had been virtually investigated ourselves. You recall I have been sued along with Dean (Cecil) Morgan of the Tulane Law School and Dean (Paul) Hebert of the LSU Law School. It was alleged that we were being used to free

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(Teamster Boss Jimmy) Hoffa from the penitentiary and that trying to hurt Partin was helping Hoffa.

"The day this particular incident came about Mr. (Walter) Sheridan, (a former Justice Department investigator) was there. He had insisted all along this was some scheme to hurt Partin and in turn to help Hoffa. I told him it wasn't true — we were just determined to clean up our mess. That I felt Hoffa should be in the pen and as far as I was concerned he could stay there.

"On the other hand, that didn't mean Louisiana was open to rape. That was what was happening to us in the Baton Rouge area. I said to demonstrate to you (Sheridan) how sincere we are and that we have no desire to hurt Mr. Partin, if you get him to come up here and tell us everything he knows, if he will leave the state, I will recommend to the Labor Management Commission they drop whatever charges they have against him and Teamsters Local No. 5.

ONE OF SEVERAL

"He wasn't the only one we sent word to like that. He was one of several. When you have something of that nature, you have to have someone who will come in and bare his soul. So far we haven't got one."

Gov. McKeithen said his reasoning was "if perhaps we could get Teamsters Local No. 5 out of the way, our troubles might be over."

He said, "We thought we would demonstrate to the Justice Department there was no desire just to punish Mr. Partin. You see in the Louisiana Loan and Thrift thing, the people who were investigating me so strongly, who were insisting I was so guilty — the worst thing since John Dillenger — were the same people who had approached me and tried to get me to withdraw the investigation of Partin.

"I'm saying they shifted from labor management difficulties to the Securities and Exchange Commission troubles overnight if they could get any-

thing on the governor.

McKeithen said he referred specifically to Michael P. Epstein, an attorney then with the criminal division of the U.S. Justice Department.

PRESSING CHARGES

"He came down here and said there was nothing wrong in Baton Rouge, that the whole idea was to free Hoffa," continued McKeithen, as a crowd gathered in the council chambers. "He thought Dean Morgan, Dean Hebert and I were all in on the scheme, perhaps unknowingly. When we didn't buy that, the next thing I knew rather than doing the investigation, we were being investigated."

Asked where the labor situation is now, the governor said 150 to 160 charges are being pressed to trial by parish district attorneys.

"You've got a key witness over in Dallas or Houston and we are having an extremely difficult time — mysteriously — getting him extradited," said McKeithen. "There has been one delay after another." He said he referred to Wade

McClanahan, former Local No. 5 business agent.

'AWFUL MESS'

"That is an awful mess. Jefferson Parish has high millage and low assessment; Caddo Parish, high assessment and low millage. Just saying double the assessments isn't the answer. It's a long and involved thing.

On another subject, when someone suggested to the governor that he had the power to tell the Louisiana Tax Commission to institute tax reform, McKeithen replied quickly, "Who told you that? Listen, the idea of going up there and telling the tax commission to double your assessments, why you would have to sell your home and I would have to sell my farm.

"We have many parishes and cities who have sold bonds based on their millages and assessments. If we said you've got to reduce your millage ... it's very complicated. All who have made a study of

this admit it.

"There's nothing we can do overnight, as I said four years ago. I daresay this Legislature isn't going to face up to it until it is made to do it. Perhaps no governor is either.

"I talked with governors where they put in equalization of assessments and they told me they couldn't do it until they were forced to. It's just like reapportionment of the Legislature. We tried desperately to get them to reapportion. They got a court order and it was done in one day."

The governor said there is "an explosive situation" because of the rigid HEW guidelines. "This has aroused the white people and some of the Negroes," he said. "We have an explosive situation. We can't say it's not here, because it is here. I am not speaking about New Orleans, but across the state. I don't know of any of the liberals in Louisiana who are for it in the state.

HELD UN-AMERICAN

"I think it is un-American. I feel this very strongly. I think I have established a record of not being a racist. In fact, compared to many southern governors, I am a liberal in race relations. This isn't race relation." zit goes much further than that. It is the question of allowing an American to do what he wants to do."

Gov. McKeithen said he believes it will hurt quality educations. It goes much further eventually going to have to back up," he said.

The governor said he thinks if there was a move to bus student" from Washington, D.C., schools — predominately Negro in enrollment — to Maryland and Virginia where the congressmen and U.S. Supreme Court justices live and turn them loose in the public schools, "you would see in 24 hours those directives rescinded and the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals would be directed to withdraw its directives."

He said there "very well could be a collapse of public school education as we know it today."

More than 20 million persons visit New Jersey's Atlantic City each year.

Ocean City, a resort on the New Jersey coast, was founded in 1879 by Methodist ministers,