

MCKEITHEN, CRIME PROBERS MAKE SURPRISE N.Y. TRIP

By **BILL LYNCH**
(States-Item Bureau)

BATON ROUGE—Gov. John J. McKeithen and a five-man back-up team unexpectedly flew to New York today and conferred with the editors of Life magazine about the publication's repeated charges of organized crime in Louisiana.

The governor and his delegation, which includes the president of the Metropolitan Crime Commission and the vice-chairman of the state's Labor-Management Commission of Inquiry, met with Life executives late this afternoon.

(In an interview with the States-Item yesterday, McKeithen called the Life accusations a "deliberate smear" and indicated Life representatives would come to Baton Rouge to see him.)

THE MAGAZINE THIS WEEK repeated its charges that syndicated crime exists in Louisiana and flourishes "under the very nose" of Gov. McKeithen and Orleans Parish Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison.

A terse statement issued by the governor's office this morning announced the unheralded trip and named Gov. McKeithen's companions as:

E. C. Upton Jr., the MCC president.

Louisiana State University Law School Dean Paul Hebert, vice-chairman of the state labor rackets commission.

Camille Gravel, counsel for the labor-management commission.

Edward W. Stagg, executive director of the Council for a Better Louisiana.

Gus Weill, the governor's press aide.

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McKeithen, Probe Team Visit N.Y.

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THE ANNOUNCEMENT said Gov. McKeithen will return to Louisiana tomorrow.

Yesterday, Gov. McKeithen said he was "most anxious" to hear first hand what editors and publishers of Life would have to say about their recent articles on gangsterism in Louisiana.

In its article, Life charged that, in an effort to spring Teamster Union boss James R. Hoffa from a federal prison, mobsters had offered a \$1 million bribe to the principal government witness against Hoffa to recant or change his testimony.

The magazine said the bribe offer was made to the witness—Edward R. Partin, a Baton Rouge Teamster official—in a meeting at the home of Aubrey Young, then an aide to Gov. McKeithen.

The magazine said that several months after the bribe was offered and rejected, Young told the story to the governor, who threatened to fire him. Young resigned, and has since denied to Life that he got any money for his efforts or had any connection with Carlos Marcello, named by Life as the Cosa Nostra boss in Louisiana.

IN ITS NEW issue, Life said it had learned that Marcello has placed many telephone calls to Young at the governor's offices in the state Capitol in Baton Rouge during the period of Young's involvement in the Partin bribery offer.

The magazine said it also learned that Young was a guest of Mario Marino, a Marcello lieutenant, at the Sands Hotel in Las Vegas early this year, not long after the bribery attempt.

"While there he passed out a dozen \$100 bills to chorus girls, although he supposedly was deep in debt," the magazine said.

McKeithen said that Young is now in a state mental hospital.

"He has vehemently denied to me having talked or met with Carlos Marcello," McKeithen said. "His trips to Las Vegas were one reason I told

him he couldn't work for me any more."

Yesterday, the governor said that he thought the articles written by Life, in addition to being a "deliberate smear" of Louisiana, were somehow connected with the indictment here of National Broadcasting Co. newsman Walter Sheridan.

Sheridan is under indictment for public bribery in the Garrison assassination probe.

Today, Sheridan said he does not know why "McKeithen would make such a statement."

"I DON'T know," he shrugged. "I can't figure it out." He (McKeithen) apparently thinks I had something to do with the (Life) story. I didn't.

"I know Sandy Smith (the Life author)," Sheridan said; "I saw him once when he was down here. He didn't ask me for any help and I didn't give him any."