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McKeithen-Crime 280By BILL NEIKIRK
Associated Press Writer

NEW ORLEANS AP - Gov. John McKeithen said Wednesday he planned an immediate crackdown on crime in Louisiana.

Arriving from New York after a conference with editors of Life magazine, McKeithen said he was convinced that Life "had hard evidence of wrongdoing in our state" to support the magazine's allegation that organized crime flourishes in Louisiana.

"Our state police are going to take over the prosecution of gambling and prostitution in this state," the governor told a news conference.

"We think we are going to put some people in the penitentiary," he said. He added he could not divulge the information obtained from Life's editors.

The governor said the crackdown would start with his office. He referred to former aide Aubrey Young, whom Life said was in telephone contact with New Orleans area rackets figure Carlos Marcello.

McKeithen said security officers had been assigned to Young, who is now in a state hospital.

"He will have the opportunity to turn state's evidence if he wants to," McKeithen stated.

The governor also announced that state police Capt. Roland Coppola would be suspended immediately on the basis of Life allegations that he associated with rackets figures. The governor emphasized that Copolla would be suspended "not for any misdoings but for his associations."

An article in Life said a \$1-million offer was made to Baton Rouge Teamster Union official Edward Grady Partin and rejected by Partin in efforts to free former national Teamster President James Hoffa from prison. The article said Young set up a meeting with Partin, a principal government witness against Hoffa, and another man at which the bribe offer was made.

Several months later, the magazine said, Young told the story of the meeting 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 Marcello, named by Life as the Cosa Nostra boss in Louisiana.

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