

EB143

CRIME PROBE 300
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NEW ORLEANS (AP)—CARLOS MARCELLO, CHUBBY NEW ORLEANS RACKETS FIGURE WHO IS THE GOVERNOR'S PRIME TARGET IN A CRIME CRACKDOWN, SPENT LESS THAN AN HOUR BEFORE THE ORLEANS PARISH GRAND JURY THURSDAY. "LIES, ALL LIES," HE MUTTERED TO NEWSMEN WHEN ASKED ABOUT MAGAZINE ALLEGATIONS HE HEADED COSA NOSTRA CRIME ACTIVITIES IN THE STATE.

MARCELLO'S APPEARANCE OPENED A MAJOR DAY FOR THE GRAND JURY WHICH ALSO PLANNED TO INTERROGATE GOV. JOHN MCKEITHEN AND DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEEMAN J. MARSHALL BROWN OF NEW ORLEANS.

HE DID NOT COMMENT ON WHAT HE TOLD THE JURORS, BUT INDICATED HE DID TESTIFY, RATHER THAN EXERCISING CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS TO NOT SPEAK ON GROUNDS OF SELF-INCRIMINATION.

G. WRAY GILL, MARCELLO'S ATTORNEY, SAID IT WOULD BE "AGAINST THE LAW" FOR HIM TO TELL WHAT WENT ON BEHIND THE JURY ROOM DOORS. HE SAID MARCELLO IS A "LEGITIMATE BUSINESSMAN--MORE LEGITIMATE THAN THE PEOPLE WHO WORK FOR LIFE MAGAZINE."

LIFE SPARKED THE MCKEITHEN CRIME FIGHT AND THE ORLEANS PARISH INVESTIGATION WITH A SERIES OF THREE ARTICLES THAT REPORTED ORGANIZED CRIME IN THE STATE, WITH MARCELLO AS KINGPIN.

MARCELLO ARRIVED SHORTLY AFTER HIS 10 A.M. SUBPOENA TIME. AS HE AND GILL STRODE HURRIEDLY INTO THE COURT BUILDING, SOMEONE KNOCKED OVER A SOFT DRINK CASE, SENDING A LOUD NOISE ECHOING THROUGH THE MARBLE HALLS.

THE NOISE SEEMED TO STARTLE MARCELLO. THEN, GILL SAID: "I DON'T WANT ANYONE TO SLUG HIM. HE'S BEEN SLUGGED BEFORE. HE HAS SCARS ALL OVER HIM."

HE AND GILL LEFT THE BUILDING AT 11:15 A.M., AS BRISKLY AS THEY ENTERED 30 MINUTES EARLIER. WHEN THEY REACHED THE CAR, MARCELLO SAID, "I'LL TAKE THE WHEEL."

MCKEITHEN WAS DUE FOR THE AFTERNOON SESSION.

"THE GOVERNOR IS GOING TO BE THERE REGARDLESS OF WHETHER HE WAS SUBPOENAED," SAID WILLIAM REDMANN, EXECUTIVE COUNSEL TO MCKEITHEN. "IF INVITED, HE WOULD HAVE BEEN THERE TO TESTIFY."

REDMANN REFERRED TO STATEMENTS BY DIST. ATTY. JIM GARRISON THAT MCKEITHEN WAS "INVITED" TO TESTIFY. LATER, AFTER MCKEITHEN ACCEPTED THE INVITATION, GARRISON ISSUED A SUBPOENA FOR HIM ALTHOUGH THE GOVERNOR IS NOT LEGALLY REQUIRED TO HONOR IT.

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