

High Court OKs Leave For O'Hara

The Louisiana Supreme Court today granted Criminal District Court Judge Malcolm V. O'Hara's request for a temporary leave of absence, pending outcome of removal proceedings against him.

Judge O'Hara had requested the leave earlier this week, saying that the dignity of the bench would be better served if he refrained from his duties until charges of misconduct against him are settled.

The Metropolitan Crime Commission has filed a petition with State Atty. Gen. Jack P. F. Gremillion which alleges Judge O'Hara has been guilty of misconduct. The judge testified during a Chicago federal court hearing that he had been a "messenger" in an attempt to free convicted Teamster Union president James R. Hoffa.

UNDER THE law, Gremillion must file suit for removal of a judge upon receipt of a petition signed by 25 or more taxpayers. The MCC petition had more than 25 signatures.

In granting the leave of absence today, the Supreme Court directed the other seven judges of Criminal District Court to perform O'Hara's duties while he is on leave.

Judge Matthew S. Braniff was directed to take over

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Judge O'Hara's duties as adviser to the Orleans Parish Grand Jury.

EACH of the the judges is to sit in Judge O'Hara's section on a rotating basis.

The order was signed by Chief Justice John B. Fournet and Associate Justices Joe B. Hamiter, E. Howard McCaleb, Frank W. Hawthorne, Walter B. Hamlin, Joe E. Sanders and Frank M. Summers.

Friday, October 13, 1967 ★ ★ SEVENTEEN

McKeithen, Rarick Swap Sharp Words

COLUMBIA, La. (AP)—A fierce political enmity flared last night when Gov. John McKeithen and Rep. John Rarick, D-La., met at a Jaycees' campaign rally.

McKeithen, running for re-election, and Rarick, his major foe in the race for Democratic nomination, swapped hot speeches—and hotter words afterward.

It was the highlight of the political rally, staged in front of the Caldwell Parish Courthouse here in the governor's own home town, with each candidate allotted five minutes at the microphone.

M'KEITHEN AND Rarick were the only gubernatorial candidates to appear.

Rarick referred to the current investigation of organized crime in the state—being spurred on by the governor—and said the governor should have known about the situation long ago.

"If McKeithen didn't know what was going on in our state, then it was just plain stupid not to know, for someone in his position," said Rarick.

The congressman accused McKeithen of planning to raise taxes if reelected, of boosting the number of "dead-heads" on the state payroll by 30 per cent, of favoring tax equalization and of allowing insurance rates to soar.

The governor told the crowd that "nobody born and raised a Yankee" (Rarick is from Indiana) was going to run him off.

CALLING THE NAMES of various people he recog-

nized in the crowd, McKeithen asked whether they believed he is a gangster.

McKeithen said Rarick was going around the state like a chosen emissary, but "he doesn't know me as you know me. If you think I'm a gangster, then vote for Rarick. But I assure you that I've done nothing in Baton Rouge to cause you people shame."

After the rally, McKeithen walked past the Rarick auto. One of the congressman's backers handed him a campaign leaflet. The governor wadded it up.

"Take your gangsters and go have your fun somewhere else," he told Rarick, who stood looking on, smiling.

Then McKeithen took a couple of steps toward Rarick and said, sarcastically: "You got me real scared."

The governor turned to walk away, then stopped and told Rarick: "I want my money back that I gave you for your congressional campaign."

"I never did get it," replied Rarick.

"I want it back, I want my money back," said McKeithen.

"You'll get it back," said Rarick, testily.

"I bet I will!" said McKeithen.