

Coppola Gives Testimony to Ethics Panel

By BILL LYNCH
(States-Item Bureau)

BATON ROUGE — Capt. Roland Coppola, Lafayette state police commander who was linked in news reports to underworld boss Carlos Marcello and temporarily suspended, today testified for less than an hour before the Louisiana Commission on Governmental Ethics.

The suspension had been ordered last September after the governor conferred in New York with Life magazine editors over the stories and came back to the state calling for a clean-up of vice activities.

—“We feel nothing will come of it,” Schonekas said after he and Coppola emerged from the ethics commission meeting in the Civil Service Building.

Also testifying before the commission on the Coppola case was David Chandler of Metairie, his attorney, Russell Schonekas of Metairie, declared that Coppola had answered all of the questions put to him.

He predicted that nothing would come of the probe, which was launched at the insistence of Gov. John J. McKeithen following a series of stories on organized crime in Louisiana by Life magazine.

M'KEITHEN ordered Coppola suspended pending the outcome of an investigation into his alleged relationship with Marcello, but the officer was ordered reinstated by the Civil Service Commission.

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New Orleans, a reporter for Life magazine who worked on the series of stories.

CHANDLER WAS later seen in the company of Gov. McKeithen, who has named him as a special investigator with the state police while still working with Life.

Gen. Thomas Burbank, head of the Department of Public Safety, also testified.

The Coppola case took up the entire morning for the commission, which planned to resume work this afternoon.

No decision on the state police captains' case is expected today and one may not be forthcoming for several days. At this point the only thing the ethics commission may do is call a public hearing on allegations against Coppola or drop the matter.

The ethics commission also has on the agenda charges against the chief investigator for the state Labor-Management Board of Inquiry that he used his position to line up business for his own private firm.

A. Harry Roberts, president of Southern Research Co. of Shreveport, revealed that he was under investigation by the ethics commission and said it was another effort at harassment of the agency.

ONE OF THE ethics commission members is Victor Bussie, head of the state AFL-CIO, who has been at odds with the operation of the labor-management board.

Roberts has stoutly denied that he used his state position as charged and said he has been unable to find out who leveled the charge against him.

The ethics probers also may try again to resolve their indecision over the case of Rep. Lantz Womack of Franklin Parish, who received per diem from the Louisiana Financial Assistance Commission.

NYTimes

U.S. WORKER CALLED IN KENNEDY 'PLOT'

NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 4 (UPI)—District Attorney Jim Garrison of New Orleans today subpoenaed a Federal civil service employe he said “may have special knowledge” of the assassination of President Kennedy.

The subpoena to appear before the Orleans Parish (County) grand jury went to a man identified as James Hicks, a civilian employe at Vance Air Force Base in Enid, Okla.

Mr. Garrison said that Mr. Hicks was at the scene the day Mr. Kennedy was shot in Dallas.

“Mr. Hicks may have special knowledge concerning the details of the assassination with respect to its planning and execution as well as personnel employed in the assassination of the President,” Mr. Garrison said in a statement delivered from his office.

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif., Jan. 4 (AP)—A professional lie detector consultant said today that results of tests he gave Edgar Eugene Bradley indicate Mr. Bradley did not plot the murder of President Kennedy.

Mr. Bradley, 49 years old, is accused by Mr. Garrison of conspiring with Clay Shaw, 54, to kill Mr. Kennedy.

Chris Gugas, of Professional Security Consultants, told a news conference here that he has administered nine tests to Mr. Bradley.

Following disclosure of the tests, Mr. Bradley challenged Mr. Garrison to take similar tests.