

LETTER 'FAIRY TALE'

Governor Denies RFK Bid

Gov. John J. McKeithen denied reports here today that he received a letter from a campaign aide of the late Sen. Robert F. Kennedy telling him he was being considered for a vice presidential berth on the Kennedy ticket.

"I don't know anything

about it," McKeithen told newsmen. "It could very well be a fairy tale."

THE GOVERNOR came to New Orleans to address the 50th annual convention of the Louisiana Department of the American Legion at the Jung

Hotel. Reports of the Kennedy letter have been circulated in the state.

McKeithen reportedly also is among those being considered as a running mate with Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey. The vice president has had several conversations with the governor.

On other topics in an impromptu news conference outside the convention hall, McKeithen said he will appoint a committee of "distinguished citizens" before the Legislature adjourns early in July to study various tax proposals to be submitted to a special session in September.

ASKED ABOUT the prog-

ress of an investigation into charges that a telephone in the governor's office was used to place calls to Jefferson Parish rackets figure Carlos Marcello, McKeithen said. Baton Rouge Dist. Atty. Sargent Pitcher Jr. will issue a full report within the next few days.

"If he doesn't give a report on the charges," McKeithen said, "I will."

In a speech to the delegates, the governor branded as "claptrap and absurd" what he said were Supreme Court efforts to look out for the welfare of criminals regardless of the effect on law enforcement.

HE CITED THE current case involving Jordanian Sirhan Sirhan, charged with the murder of Sen. Kennedy.

"We've got to come up with new revenue sources," McKeithen said. "If we don't, a number of our state institutions will have to close down or cut back services."

The governor said officials at Charity Hospital have told him they will have to close the institution unless additional money for its operation is provided by the Legislature.

ANSWERING CRITICISM that the current session of the Legislature has failed to accomplish anything, McKeithen rattled off a number of measures which passed both houses and said he thought the Legislature had accomplished many things.

Among the measures the governor cited were coordina-

tion of higher education, urban renewal and highway safety.

"That's probably the most ridiculous thing I've ever heard," he said, "that this man might not be convicted because his diary was revealed."

LOS ANGELES Mayor Samuel Yorty shortly after Sirhan was captured released information found in the young Arab's diary saying "Kennedy must be killed before June 5."

"I think the whole country was entitled to know what was in that diary," McKeithen declared.

"They talk about the rights of the criminal, but what about our rights? What about the rights of the people who obey the law? Ain't we got some rights too?"

HE ALSO BLASTED contentions that the entire country was responsible for the Kennedy killing.

"If we're guilty of anything," he said, "we're guilty of being too good."