

Job Rackets Panel

By **BILL LYNCH**
(States-Item Bureau)

BATON ROUGE—The State Labor-Management Commission barred its own chief counsel from a secret session Saturday with a representative of the governor, and the chairman said today that new plans are being made to revive the agency's faltering operations.

Commission members met with W. W. McDougall, special assistant to Gov. John J. McKeithen, for more than an hour amidst growing reports that the anti-racketeering body is headed for extinction.

Dr. F. Jay Taylor, chairman of the commission, said the agency is developing plans for a new course of action and may reveal them when it meets again Dec. 18.

ALL OF THE INVESTIGATING staff has resigned and the commission Saturday declined to name one of them as assistant attorney, a post sought by the chief counsel, Tom McFerrin.

The action was taken as McFerrin and the attorney general's office prepared to proceed with the commission's first major court case—a public bribery charge against a

Bars Own Counsel

state policeman.

State trooper Stanley Jackson was charged in connection with labor racketeering in Iberville Parish. His trial is set for tomorrow in Shreveport. An attorney from the attorney general's office, which has been handling the prosecution, will conduct the trial with McFerrin lending his assistance.

McFERRIN WAS BANNED from the commission meeting, reportedly at the request of McDougall. It was the first time that the commission has held an executive session

and removed its own counsel.

The chief counsel actually has been the guiding hand running the agency.

Taylor said that McDougall wrought reassurance from Gov. McKeithen that he is still vitally interested in the commission continuing its work.

THE COMMISSION WAS ESTABLISHED in the summer of 1967 at a special legislative session called to deal

(Turn to Page 4, Column 6)

Continued from Page 1

with labor racketeering, and it caused an industrial and construction shutdown in the Baton Rouge area.

Since then, more than 100 charges have been filed against various individuals in connection with the probe.

However, the commission's operation began faltering when the State Civil Service Commission finally won its long battle to put the investigative staff under the classified system. The order reduced pay rates, causing the specially assembled high paid staff to resign.

AN EFFORT TO RETAIN the services of one investigator as an assistant attorney under civil service was dropped Saturday after the meeting with McDougall.

Taylor said the commission said it hopes it can iron out its staffing problems.

"The commission is taking a hard look at its staffing problems," he said. "We will try to get an adequate staff and I think we can get it back on the track."

TAYLOR SAID, "I THINK EVERY member of the commission is aware that the commission work has not proceeded as we had hoped. We will work as hard as we can within the confines of the law."

He said the commission had adopted a resolution asking two labor representatives on the nine-member body to retake their seats. The commission, which is comprised of three representatives each from labor, management and the public, has been boycotted by labor leaders Gordon Flory and Emile Bourg.

Another vacant seat on the commission was caused by the resignation of Paul M. Hebert of Louisiana State University.

High Court to Decide If Unit Constitutional

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Supreme Court granted a hearing today to decide whether Louisiana's Labor-Management Commission of Inquiry, a panel set up to probe possible labor crimes, is constitutional.

The 1967 state law which created the commission is being challenged by the labor figure Roderick Jenkins, charged with four counts of conspiracy to commit battery with a dangerous weapon.

JENKINS TOLD THE COURT in his appeal that the Louisiana Commission denies a person due process and equal protection of the law because a suspect is not allowed to confront and cross-examine witnesses, to have effective assistance of attorneys, to call his own witnesses and to have an avenue of appeal.

Louisiana Atty. Gen. Jack P. F. Gremillion told the court that the commission is merely a fact-finding body and could not judge persons. Therefore, the attorney general said, due process was not denied.

Jenkins charged in his appeal the commission had singled out him and members of Teamsters Local No. 5 to destroy that labor union.

A THREE-JUDGE FEDERAL PANEL in Louisiana turned down Jenkins' request for an injunction last summer and tossed out his suit. The Supreme Court made no comment in agreeing to hear the appeal.