

FEBRUARY 26, 1970

THREE

**MAINTAIN ONE-MAN STAFF**

**Anti-Rackets Panel Will Fold**

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP)—The Louisiana Labor - Management Commission, claiming it cannot solve current problems of labor-management, said yesterday it will halt all investigative activities and staff assignments.

The anti-rackets agency said it agreed with civic, industrial and labor leaders that it has served a useful purpose since its creation in 1967 and will continue on a stand-by basis as a deterrent.

GOV. JOHN McKeithen formed the commission after a massive shutdown of construction in the petro-chemical complex in the Baton Rouge area.

"The commission and its staff, from personal observations, conclude that there has been substantial improvement in the general labor-management area within the past several months," a statement said.

"The commission further concludes that, with the exception of some isolated instances of vi-

olations of criminal laws which may be in some way related to the industrial community, the number and frequency of which is not of such an extraordinary nature or disproportionate number, there is no threat to the economic well-being of the Baton Rouge industrial area as was the situation at the time of the governor's referral, and that special investigative effort, in addition to that routinely conducted by the various police agencies, is not required.

"ACCORDINGLY, the commission concludes that, at the present time, any further hearings into matters which were the subject of the governor's referral are not necessary."

The release said the reorganization will become effective April 1. At that time, the statement said, the commission will reduce its staff to one administrative assistant who will maintain an office and the commission files.

The commission statement

said it will submit a reduced budget request for the 1970-71 fiscal year but will include funds "sufficient to permit the commission to resume full operations" if it is necessary.

In its deterrent role, the statement said "it is vitally important to have the machinery at hand to immediately commence investigations into alleged crime if and when needed" despite a "vastly improved" situation.