

Marcello Gets 2-Week Delay In Tax Hearing

The state 4th Circuit Court of Appeal today granted attorneys for Carlos Marcello a two-week delay in a hearing to reduce property taxes on Marcello's Churchill Farms property.

The court granted the delay until Dec. 9 after attorneys said they had to be in Tampa, Fla., tomorrow to take part in another hearing involving Marcello's pleas for a new trial on assault charges.

The 60-year-old rackets figure is jailed in a federal prison-hospital at Springfield, Mo., serving a six-month term for trying to punch an FBI agent.

Marcello was contesting his recently increased property taxes on Churchill Farms, which his attorneys said were "unfair."

Last year the Louisiana Tax Commission increased property tax assessments on Churchill Farms and two other Marcello-connected holdings by more than \$200,000. Marcello attorneys contend in the suits that the increases are not justified because similar property elsewhere in Jefferson was not taxed in the same manner.

Churchill Farms, which contains more than 4,000 acres of mostly marsh land, was assessed at \$8,800 before the tax commission stepped in and raised its assessment to \$263,000. The tract has been estimated to be worth from \$16 million to \$20 million.

A similar suit attacking the tax raises was overruled by Gretna's 24th Judicial District Court earlier this year.

Marcello is asking that his assessments be lowered to that of what he calls similarly classed property and that Jefferson Parish officials be blocked from collecting taxes due on the holdings.

Two other Marcello interests — Bayou Verett Land Co., Inc. and Marsh Investment Corp. — also had their property taxes raised considerably by tax commission action. Those increases also are targets for other suits.