

BLASTS PANEL ERROR

Moreau Rips MCC In Landrieu Defense

Councilman James A. Moreau said during a City Council meeting today that the Metropolitan Crime Commission should either change its methods of operation or "give consideration to going out of business.

In a blistering indictment of the MCC, Moreau defended fellow councilman Moon Landrieu.

He said, "The attack on Landrieu was uncalled for, irresponsible and definitely a deterrent to city government . . ."

AT A PRESS conference last week MCC managing director Aaron M. Kohn said that there was a conflict of interest involved in Landrieu representing Tac Amusement Co., a pin-

ball and music box operation.

Yesterday, the MCC issued a statement apologizing for the remarks and clearing Landrieu of any connection with gambling operations.

Landrieu today had the MCC apology made a part of the official city council record and Moreau blasted the commission immediately afterwards.

"AS FAR AS I'm concerned,

the Metropolitan Crime Commission is doing more harm than good," Moreau said. "I would like to have them change their operations or give consideration to going out of business."

The councilman also said he is going to reopen an earlier matter concerning charges made by Kohn against the council in general.

Moreau said that last summer Kohn made a speech before the Gentilly Young Men's Business Club during which he said that the police department takes no action in certain crime matters because the department is controlled by "certain members of the city council."

HE SAID THAT after the statement was made he wrote a letter to E. C. Upton Jr., MCC president, asking him to identify the members of the council who control the police department. Moreau said he received no reply and when he followed the matter up again was invited to lunch by Upton.

"I'm going to reopen this matter," Moreau said today. "I'm going to ask Mr. Kohn to identify the members of city council who control the police department."

The conflict of interest charge was made by Kohn in connection with his allegation that the city council has failed to revoke the liquor licenses of businesses which have violated the

law. Kohn said that pinball operators such as TAC have a vested interest in seeing that establishments with their machines remain open.

After meeting with Landrieu, the MCC backed down and Landrieu issued the following statement:

"TODAY, THE Metropolitan Crime Commission has retracted the charges which were made against me last week. I have always respected the members of the Metropolitan Crime Commission as men of integrity. They were wrong and they and Mr. Kohn have acknowledged their error and apologized both personally and publicly.

"Although the damage to me and my family may never be fully repaired, at least the public record has been corrected. At my request the Metropolitan Crime Commission examined in detail my personal, political and professional record."

"After a thorough study and analysis they concluded that the charges were totally unfounded and that an injustice had been done to me. They have made a genuine effort to repair the damage.

"THIS UNFORTUNATE experience emphasizes once again a serious flaw inherent in many organizations of high purpose. That is the abandonment of responsibility of the membership to a paid staff.

"The Metropolitan Crime Commission can be a very effective instrument in the community but only if those outstanding men and women who constitute its membership and comprise its board of directors interest themselves and actively participate in the decisions and operations of the commission.

"A negative attitude dedicated to the proposition that all public officials are corrupt coupled with the reckless practice of name calling and guilt-by-association can be as destructive to the moral fabric of a community as crime itself.

I hope that out of this unfortunate experience for both the Metropolitan Crime Commission and myself will come a renewed dedication to the high principles which we share in common."