

Political War Throttles La., Says Governor

Political warfare for too many years has kept Louisiana, which was first in natural resources, last in economic development, Gov. John J. McKeithen said last night at a denominational-alumni banquet marking the 50th anniversary of the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

"Louisiana cannot remain that way," the governor said at the Founder's Week program. "We cannot let organized crime exist in this state and continue to grow with our 49 sister states looking on."

He said it was tempting to deny what a national magazine said about Louisiana and let it ride. "But that's not the way we do things in Louisiana any more."

McKEITHEN said the South soon would assume leadership in civil rights in the United States.

He said obedience to the law would be a major factor, pointing out the state has had no riots, burnings or lootings despite having a larger percentage of Negro population than northern states having trouble.

He said, "This is partly due to our belief that first-class citizenship brings with it first-class responsibility."

DR. WALTER B. Shurden, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Ruston and president of the seminary's 4,500-member alumni association, said "theological education is a good gift which comes from God."

"We are not here to salute buildings, bricks or mortar, but rather those dedicated men and their programs which have made this seminary the great institution it has become over the years."

The seminary began as the Baptist Institute.

DR. ALBERT I. McClellan, program planning secretary of

the Southern Baptist Convention, recalled that when he was a trustee of the seminary in 1945, conditions at the seminary located on Washington ave. were crowded.

He said of its present location: "It gives me a sense of pride for all Southern Baptists, as well as an esthetic and religious experience, because we have here what is really a work of God."

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PROMPTED BY THREAT

McKeithen Follows New Security Rules

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

BATON ROUGE—There's no "hard and fast" rule on what precautions Gov. John McKeithen is taking since a threat to his life was made Tuesday but he apparently is relying more heavily on the advice of his security officers than he has in the past.

Last night, Gov. McKeithen canceled an appearance at an open air meeting in Marrero for security reasons.

The advice came from Col. Thomas Burbank, director of the Department of Public Safety who doubles as superintendent of state police.

It is Burbank's job to protect the governor.

In the past it has not been an easy job because Gov. McKeithen has been inclined to ignore recommendations of extra precautions.

Frequently McKeithen has been driving himself about—with or without companions and usually without state police plainclothesmen along.

IT WAS NOT an unusual sight to see McKeithen roll out of the driveway to the governor's mansion at the wheel of his black Lincoln and drive slowly to the capitol a short distance away.

Motorists along the highway that goes past the mansion have been startled occasionally to see the governor strolling on the front lawn dressed in a "jup" suit and accompanied by his wife and one or more of his children.

As a politician — and one of the state's most successful—McKeithen loves to mingle with the crowd, to clasp the hands, to hear the applause.

SINCE THE threat was made to his wife, Margie, Tuesday morning there has been a noticeable shift in policy on protecting the governor and this was amply demonstrated in New Orleans.

When the governor appeared before the Orleans Grand Jury, he left Baton Rouge for his destination with just about enough time to avoid dallying much in the city.

Normally he might have been accompanied by a staff member and one state policeman.

This time he was persuaded to have two additional security officers with him, in addition to those posted about the grounds of the courthouse in New Orleans.

Among those with the governor was Col. Burbank.

This does not mean that the governor is going into hiding—not by any means.

HE SPOKE at the Baptist Theological Seminary in New Orleans at an indoor meeting and canceled out on the outdoor session before the West Bank Businessmen's Association.

A spokesman for the governor said that each situation will be considered as it arises and no hard and fast rule has been adopted on whether to avoid outdoor rallies in the future.

His security advisers have for a long time advised him to take

greater safety measures as do other governors.

Although the last threat apparently came from a psychiatric case and the individual is being kept under observation, there obviously is greater concern at this time since the governor's orders to crack down on vice operations in the state and the current organized crime investigation is under way.