

TUESDAY

La. Rackets Panel, To Plan Hearings

BATON ROUGE (AP)—The groundwork for a series of public hearings into labor and management strife in the Baton Rouge industrial complex will be laid today by the governor's new antirackets commission.

A special session of the Labor-Management Commission of Inquiry, created during a special session of the Louisiana Legislature this summer, convenes at 2 p. m.

Current thinking, said commission attorney Camille Gravel, is that a public hearing to expose racketeering in labor and management in the Baton Rouge area will be held within six to eight weeks.

A CLOSED hearing—at which witnesses would be subpoenaed—will probably be called within three or four weeks, he said.

Gravel said plans for both the closed and open hearings will be made today.

Labor-management strife in Baton Rouge last summer prompted Gov. John McKeithen to summon the legislature into special session to create the investigative body.

A staff of investigators—hired from the ranks of the FBI and internal revenue service—has been probing for the last two months racketeering influences in the labor and management field. Gravel said the investigation has not been completed.

Investigators are trying to get to the cause of the turmoil which resulted in a two-month shutdown of new industrial construction in the huge complex

of plants along the Mississippi River.

HOW FAR THE commission plans to go with its many-faceted probe has never been disclosed.

McKeithen said he believes there is some connection with labor-management racketeering and Life magazine's revelations on organized crime in Louisiana.

Grand juries in Baton Rouge and New Orleans are investigating Life's allegations that organized crime flourishes in the state. Life's prime example of racketeering was a reported \$1 million attempt by the underworld to buy Jimmy Hoffa's way out of prison.

The East Baton Rouge Parish Grand Jury has indicted a New Orleans contractor, Dalton Smith, on a charge of offering a bribe to Aubrey Young, former aide to McKeithen.

DIST. ATTY. Sargent Pitcher said the money was offered to influence Young to serve as a middleman in an alleged attempt to buy the former Teamster president's way out of prison.

One of the key men in current racketeering probes is Edward



DR. CARL H. BOBLETER

Grady Partin, powerful business agent for Teamsters Local No. 5 in Baton Rouge.

Partin's contention that he was offered \$1 million to change his testimony at Hoffa's jury tampering trial is under investigation by the East Baton Rouge grand jury and a federal grand jury in New Orleans.

Partin turned state's evidence against Hoffa, resulting in the former Teamster official's conviction.