

Gave Marcello Case to Pitcher --McKeithen

BATON ROUGE (AP) — Gov. John J. McKeithen said today East Baton Rouge Parish Dist. Atty. Sargent Pitcher was put in complete charge of a probe into an alleged telephone link between rackets figure Carlos Marcello and Aubrey Young, former aide to the governor.

"It was imperative that no one connected with my office or administration assume the responsibility of the investigation because of the possibility of people in my administration being involved," the governor said in a statement issued by telephone from New York.

McKeithen commented after the New Orleans States-Item reported yesterday that an investigation into telephone calls by investigators of the Labor-Management Commission of Inquiry was dropped "when it began pointing in other directions."

THE GOVERNOR said he assured Pitcher that he would have the support of everyone connected in state government, including the investigative staff of the rackets commission and its former chief counsel, Camille Gravel.

"We made available to the district attorney and the grand jury all the records they requested regarding telephone calls and other matters which they expressed an interest in and we made available every person connected with my administration to the grand jury," McKeithen said.

The governor said the investigative staff submitted certain evidence to the grand jury upon his request.

"**DISTRICT ATTORNEY** Pitcher had the complete cooperation of myself and everyone connected with state government in this investigation

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and, when disagreements arose as to the methods of this investigation, I insisted that his (Pitcher's) position prevailed," he said.

McKeithen said he expects to have Pitcher's report in the next few days and he added the investigation has been "thorough, intensive and objective."

He said Pitcher was chosen to conduct the investigation of the telephone links because Pitcher was not part of his

administration, not a political associate and had opposed him in the governor's race and on the two-term amendment.

He said he chose Pitcher—and not someone in his administration—to handle the probe "so the people of our state would be convinced a completely impartial investigation has been made."

Never Helped By Marcello, Hunt Maintains

(States-Item Bureau)

BATON ROUGE — Public Service Commissioner John Hunt of Ruston today said to his knowledge he had never received a campaign contribution from rackets figure Carlos Marcello.

Hunt made the comment in response to a States-Item story yesterday that he had been introduced to Marcello in Shreveport during the 1966 Public Service Commission race and received a contribution.

He said he had been introduced by Aubrey Young, former aide to Gov. John J. McKeithen, to "a Marcello" but couldn't remember if it was Carlos.

The States-Item information was that Hunt, in informing Gov. McKeithen of a relationship between Young and Marcello, commented that he had received a small contribution. Hunt said this was not true.