

Gov. M'Keithen To Air Facts in Marcello Probe

By VERNON A. GUIDRY JR.

BATON ROUGE (AP)—Gov. John J. McKeithen has ordered full disclosure of a probe into telephone calls allegedly placed to a former aide by a New Orleans racketeer figure.

Preparation of the information began today.

McKeithen told a news conference yesterday that he ordered Camille Gravel, former chief counsel of the Labor-Management Commission of Inquiry, to make public the results of a commission investigation into calls allegedly placed by Carlos Marcello to Aubrey Young, a former McKeithen aide.

M'KEITHEN said he was releasing the information because a story in the New Orleans States-Item reported that the investigation was stopped because it pointed to others.

(The States-Item, in a story by its Baton Rouge correspondent, Bill Lynch, reported on Jan. 25 that an investigation into a telephone link between Marcello and Young by special state investigators was suddenly dropped when it began pointing in other directions. And yesterday Lynch reported the East Baton Rouge Parish district attorney's office was unaware at the time that the DA's office and investigators for the state Labor-Management Commission were conducting a simultaneous investigation of an alleged link between the underworld and the governor's office.

(Gov. McKeithen denied the telephone inquiry was dropped when it began pointing in "other directions." He promised full disclosure of an investigation into the matter.)

(Turn to Page 9, Column 1)

Continued from Page 1

McKeithen said the commission's part of the investigation was stopped, but only because of a "personality clash" between those involved in the probe.

He said he called Dist. Atty. Sargent Pitcher of East Baton Rouge Parish to conduct the investigation with the commission, but Gravel and Pitcher could not agree on the conduct of a lie detector test for Young.

PITCHER vowed that he would not and could not work with Gravel, McKeithen said, so he ordered the commission out of the way to allow Pitcher's probe to continue.

"This governor and no one ever connected with this governor has ever attempted to hide a thing in the world," McKeithen said. "As a matter of fact, we insisted the investigation be made."

Life magazine first reported the calls. The magazine

said 50 to 60 calls were placed from Marcello's New Orleans motel to Young when he was in the governor's office.

Actually, the governor said, the calls came on a telephone located several doors down the hall in the office of the House speaker.

McKeithen said he turned over the investigation to Pitcher, "one of the few political enemies I have in the state," to insure a thorough job. "We knew we had nothing to hide."

The governor said he expected Pitcher's report early

next week but was calling for the commission's information to present it to the public at the earliest date.

GRAVEL came to Baton Rouge to work up the material. McKeithen said if no complete report was available, Gravel would be instructed to complete it.

The governor turned aside specific questions on the calls, saying he preferred to wait for the results of the investigation.

He promised arrests this week for "intimidation" of a state trooper in connection with a probe of a recent shooting incident in Plaquemine which left five men wounded.