

MCC Backs Schwegmann Probe Call

The Metropolitan Crime Commission has urged Lt. Gov. C. C. "Taddy" Aycock to adopt Sen. John G. Schwegmann's resolution for the establishment of a Senate investigatory committee to probe racketeering in Louisiana.

Schwegmann — who put his resolution before the Senate Thursday — yesterday reported that his life was threatened by an anonymous telephone caller.

THE SENATOR reported the caller said, "If you go through with this investigation you will be a dead senator."

MCC President Dr. J. D. Grey yesterday wrote to the lieutenant governor asking for a thorough probe into gambling and prostitution. Grey also questioned the adequacy of the Louisiana State Police to suppress racketeering in the state.

"The overwhelming problems of crime and disorder," said

Grey, "demand the application of all available resources in order to bring about changes in laws and procedures which are most likely to change the rising tide of criminality."

HE ADDED that a Senate investigation into the need for new laws challenging the growth of crime would serve the public by examining the scope of organized gambling and prostitution.

The investigation would be extended to cover areas such as narcotics traffic, traffic in firearms, loansharking, and the means by which racketeers victimize and infiltrate legitimate business enterprises.

Senate Probe of Louisiana Crime?

Louisiana's Senate ought to get into an investigation of gambling, prostitution and other racketeering and the related matter of state police authority and policies, the Metropolitan Crime Commission of New Orleans believes.

Looking with favor on the proposed Senate resolution offered by Sen. John G. Schwegmann, of Jefferson, the commission sees this as an avenue to supplement the work of the McKeithen-appointed Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice under the chairmanship of Associate Justice Joe Sanders of the Louisiana Supreme Court.

So strong was the conviction last summer that Louisiana was partly in the grips of racketeers in connection with its industrial development around Baton Rouge, a special session of the Legislature created the Labor-Management Commission of Inquiry.

But this embraces a specialized area of racketeering. Moreover, the

governor's commission on enforcement and justice bears more on the technical side of the law — apprehension, prosecution, court procedures, rehabilitation and rooting out causes of crime.

The Metropolitan Crime Commission holds that use of the Legislature's investigative authority can be useful in discovering the measure of criminal activity in the state as an approach for whatever new laws may be needed.

"Organized crime and racketeering are now acknowledged to be major destructive forces in Louisiana," said the crime commission in a letter to C. C. Aycock, Senate president. "They are nurtured by traditional attitudes and the absence of law enforcement powers and methods to deal with them."

In view of the rash of gambling, prostitution and other crime news throughout the state and growing public revulsion at criminality, the Senate should seriously consider launching an investigation.