B. R. Probe Finds No Proof Of Marcello-Young Calls

By BILL LYNCH
(State-Item Bureau)

BATON ROUGE—State Baton Rouge Parish District At-
torney Sargent Pitcher said today a nine-month investiga-
tion has turned up no evidence of frequent telephone calls
between former governor's aide Aubrey Young and Carlos
Marcello, Jefferson Parish racketeer figure.

He said the probe had shown Marcello made five calls
to two other state officials in the Capitol but declined to
identify them.

The district attorney said that he was satisfied the calls
were "legitimate" and no criminal activity was in-

volved.

He issued a report on the lengthy investigation after
confering with Gov. John J. McKeithen, who requested the
probe after declaring last September that Life Magazine
had presented him with "overwhelming evidence" of the
telephone link.

IN A SERIES of articles dealing with crime in Louisiana,
Life said that Young had received calls from Marcello at his
telephone in the governor's office. In a meeting with the
governer and others, Life editors said that there were
perhaps 50 to 60 calls in 1966 and 1967.

Pitcher said that based on information obtained from
the U.S. Justice Department and from Life Magazine, he
has not been able to obtain any records bearing out the
claim.

Young, who attended the press conference held by
Pitcher, earlier had admitted to receiving two phone calls
from Marcello, one connected with Dalton Smith and the
other with the purported domed stadium in New Orleans.

Neither, he said, was over the controversial telephone
listed by Life—452-5109.

PITCHER, CONFIRMING previous stories by the States-
Item, said that the telephone was not that of Young at all
but was the phone of C. H. "Sammy" Downs, an unpaid
administrative assistant to Gov. McKeithen.

Downs let the governor's office in 1965 and the same
number was maintained for his convenience in the office of
the speaker of the House.

Pitcher said that Downs had provided an affidavit say-
ing that he never had received any calls from Marcello over
that phone during the period outlined, by Life, May, 1966,
to March, 1967.

However, it was learned from an interview with Mar-
cello by a state police investigator that Downs had talked
with Marcello about a real estate transaction in Alexandria.

IN REFUSING TO IDENTIFY the two other public of-
icials called by Marcello, Pitcher said that one was an
official on the other a high appointed official.

He said that three calls were placed to one and two
to another. In one instance, a secretary handled the calls,
he said.

Pitcher declined to describe the nature of the calls,
saying they would identify the individuals.

Pitcher said that a lie detector test had been passed by
Young in connection with the investigation. He said that
among the questions asked was whether Gov. McKeithen,
Downs or J. Marshall Brown, State Board of Education
official, had received any money from criminal elements
and that Young denied it.

The reason for asking the question, Pitcher said, was
to be thorough in the probe.

McKeithen once had accused Pitcher of conducting an
investigation of him rather than of Young when the probe
began.

THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY said that the telephone at
the Town and Country Motel in Jefferson Parish, used by
Marcello, was located in his office and at three other places
in the motel.

The district attorney said that the Justice Department
told him that it had furnished him all of the records it
had concerned with the period May through August of 1966.

This was the period of which Life furnished the governor a
list of 13 specific dates on which Young allegedly received
calls from Marcello.

He said there was no listing in the Justice Department
resume of phone calls made between the Marcello home
and the Downs' phone.

Pitcher said that to give Life magazine officials every
benefit, he had written them July 9, informing them he
planned to issue his report today.

HE REMINDED LIFE that it had said it had additional
information "that they might be interested in divulging to
my office in return for information which we might have.'"

He referred to a telephone conversation he had with
Sandy Smith, author of the articles on crime. He said he
had not heard from Life.

"If there is any other information which you feel that
my grand jury would be interested in and which I have not
included in this report, I will be happy at any time for you
to appear before the grand jury . . . to inform them of
any facts or circumstances which may have been over-
looked by me in this investigation.

"In other words," Pitcher continued, "while I am mak-
ing the report to the governor on what I have found or
this date, I am not precluding the thought that possibly
you may have information in your possession that would be of
interest to the grand jury of this parish."

In a summary of his conclusions, Pitcher said:

— All of the records could not be obtained because the
phone company did not keep a listing.

— The records available fail to show any calls from
Marcello to Young at the listed telephone numbers.

— He could not establish that there were more than the
two phone calls admitted by Young.

— That while Aubrey Young admits to knowing Carlos
Marcello, this fact, standing alone, would not in-
clude Marcello in any evidence available to the at-
fice, and beyond a reasonable doubt, that Aubrey Young was
guilty of any criminal conduct or illegal activity because of
or as a result of his knowing Carlos Marcello.

— The grand jury lacked any evidence to indict Young.

That Gordon Novel either had no relevant information
relating to the investigation or deliberately withheld any
such information.

— That Dalton Smith attempted to bribe Edward Grady
Partin, Baton Rouge Teamster boss, at a meeting arranged
by Young. However, the evidence fails to reveal that
Young was a principal in the bribery attempt.

Gov. McKeithen said yesterday that regardless of
Pitcher's report he did not plan to rehire Young. He cited
his involvement with Smith and Partin over the alleged
bribery attempt concerning a move to free international
Teamster President James Hoffa from prison.

Pitcher confirmed that his investigation shows that Life
editors read a list of dates to McKeithen and never showed
him any of the records on which it based its claims.