

MCC Urges Panel to Study Jeff Judgeship

The Metropolitan Crime Commission today called on Gov. John J. McKeithen to appoint a blue-ribbon panel to screen prospective appointees to a vacant Jefferson Parish judgeship.

The vacancy was created by the death of Judge Robert G. Hughes of Division D, 24th Judicial District.

In a letter signed by Dr. J. D. Grey, president, the MCC told McKeithen:

"WE ARE informed that you are giving serious consideration to appointing someone now in public office who has been involved in property transactions relating to the Carlos Marcello interests."

The letter charged the governor's appointive powers "have too often been used as a form of patronage, to fulfill political obligations."

The MCC suggested the governor request the law school deans of Louisiana State, Tulane and Loyola universities, together with the president of the Louisiana Bar Association, to serve as a screening committee.

"They should be asked to investigate and interview applicants . . . This committee, after thorough investigation and deliberation, would then recommend to you the names of three candidates whom they consider fully qualified to meet high standards of character, reputation, legal competence, and judicial temperament.

"You would then select for appointment one of the three who fulfill those qualifications."