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FOURTEEN

WEDNESDAY

Marcello Assessment Increased to \$263,388

(States-Item Bureau)

BATON ROUGE—The State Tax Commission has ordered the assessed valuation on Churchill Farms, the Jefferson Parish domain of Carlos Marcello, increased from \$8,800 to \$263,388.

Marcello was paying a total tax of \$816 on the assessment valuation on the approximately 4,000 acres of land he owns in Ward 5.

His tax payment on the commission-ordered increase will be \$24,429.

The action was part of a

rebuke to Jefferson Assessor Lawrence Chehardy, whose rolls were, for a time, refused by the tax commission. More than 4,000 changes in assessments have been ordered by the commission.

THE TAX Commission sent Sheriff A. J. Cronvich a notice Dec. 8 that the assessed valuation on the Churchill Farms property had been increased by \$254,588 over that rendered by Chehardy.

Cronvich will have to prepare a new tax notice to be

submitted to Marcello.

The commission said it was making the new assessment "to adjust value to that of neighboring property."

Chairman Leo J. Theriot and member Dupree Litton signed the tax change on behalf of the tax commission.

THE CHURCHILL Farms area, which covers 4,164 acres on the West Bank, was one of the centers of controversy when the parish council voted to accept assessor Chehardy's rolls for this year.

Cronvich made a point of the assessment figure when he said an adjacent tract of 1,000 acres, owned by the Missouri Improvement Co., was assessed for \$63,000.

Under the old assessment, Marcello's property was assessed at \$2 per acre, while Missouri's land was assessed at \$63 per acre.

Chehardy maintained the Missouri Improvement land was assessed at its rate because it was sold and placed into commerce (bought and sold). He said the Marcello property remained at its original assessment because it was not placed in commerce.

CHEHARDY maintained the Marcello assessment was fixed by his predecessor.