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TUESDAY

Legislators Ignore McKeithen, Offer 4 Plans for Mafia Probe

By G. MICHAEL HARMON
BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — Gov. John McKeithen's contention that a \$10 million libel suit against Life magazine should preclude any legislative investigation of alleged Mafia influence in state government apparently has not satisfied many lawmakers.

Four separate resolutions were introduced yesterday, the first day of the session, calling for independent probes of Life charges that state officials are controlled by organized crime. The resolutions were intro-

duced despite what Sen. Ted Hickey of New Orleans called a last-minute "lobbying" effort by McKeithen at a party for lawmakers Sunday night.

"I TOLD him if we don't look into this it will look like the Legislature has something to hide," Hickey said privately.

McKeithen has said a legislative investigation of the Life article is not needed because all the facts will be revealed during the course of the libel suit filed on behalf of the state last Friday.

The four resolutions differed widely in the makeup of the proposed investigative bodies, but were unanimous in citing the need for an independent probe.

ONE RESOLUTION, by Sen. Claude Duval of Houma, said a recent executive department probe of the charges "was prepared with all due haste and in contemplation of prospective legal action, and did not purport therefore to be the result of an intensive and regimented investigation into the possible existence of organized crime in the state and its alliance with public officials."

Duval said, "The truth and accuracy of such charges would constitute a shocking and intolerable travesty of the concepts of justice."

A resolution by Sen. Jules Mollere of Jefferson Parish said the

public has a "right to a full and complete disclosure of all the facts" of the Life report by an "independent legislative committee."

THE RESOLUTION by Sens. William Guste of New Orleans, W. D. Brown of Monroe, Bennett Johnston of Shreveport and Edgar Mouton of Lafayette said the allegations were "of such magnitude as to require" a legislative probe.

In providing for the makeup of the panels, Duval and Rep. Leon Soniat of Metairie took the route of an exclusive legislative panel, while the other two resolutions proposed what could be called "blue ribbon" bodies.

Soniat proposed a five-member committee composed of three representatives and two senators. Duval suggested an 11-member committee, five from the Senate and six from the House.

THE GUSTE resolution proposed a 14-member committee, four from the Senate, five from the Louisiana Bar Association, the state Chamber of Commerce, the Council for a Better Louisiana, the Public Affairs Research Council and the Louisiana AFL-CIO.

The Mollere resolution proposed creation of a 19-member body, two from the Senate, two from the House, one from the sheriffs' association, three each

from Loyola, Louisiana State University and Tulane law schools, and one from the Chamber of Commerce, CABL, New Orleans Metropolitan Crime Commission, state AFL-CIO and the state Board of Certified Public accountants.

ALL OF the resolutions would give the committees subpoena authority and the right to cite witnesses for contempt.

Sen. J.E. Jumonville of Plaquemine introduced a related resolution, calling on Life to turn over all its information on the Mafia and state government to the U.S. attorney for Louisiana and the district attorneys of those parishes cited in the article.

Many senators voiced private support for the formation of some kind of committee.

"I'm going to vote for it," said Sen. Jesse Knowles of Lake Charles. "An independent committee could go a long way in clearing the air if it can be cleared."