

Marcello Erect, Cool As Probe Queries Fly

By DALE CURRY

Carlos Marcello, flanked by a trio of lawyers with his son nearby, today faced squarely and calmly a legislative probe committee trying to clear the state of alleged Mafia influences.

The Jefferson Parish rackets figure arrived at 8:10 a.m., 20 minutes early, at the Wild Life and Fisheries Building, wearing a handsome blue suit and black alligator shoes.

His tenseness was evident only by his posture, which was stiffly erect, and his mood, which was quiet. Otherwise the target of the probe sat still. Politely, and often without hesitation, he funneled his answers through a microphone.

Joseph Marcello, son of the alleged Mafia leader, stayed close by his father while at-

torneys busily coached Marcello on his answers.

Squared off in courtroom semblance, the central characters faced a mass of lights and cameras buzzing and clicking off the motions.

Cecil Burglass, a Marcello attorney, remarked on television footage shot of Marcello. "If they were paying us by the foot, we'd be in good shape," he said.

Burglass said he wore his "good luck suit," an old suit which he said brought him luck in the past.

In testimony Marcello sometimes wanted to answer questions over his attorney's advice to plead the Fifth Amendment.

Questioning him were six members of the legislative committee and six members of an advisory committee

which included deans of several law schools.

Television and still cameramen filled a quarter of the meeting room where testimony was heard, disregarding an earlier protest by Marcello attorneys to keep cameras out.

Dean Andrews, counsel for Marcello, held out for federal district court rules not allowing cameras above the first floor of the building.

He lost the battle, however, because the meeting was conducted in a state meeting room.

Wearing sunglasses, he asked that cameras cease functioning during a five-minute recess and his request was granted.

Even Sen. Adrian G. Duplantier, committee chairman, tired of the cameras and

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asked that lights be turned off during the recess.

Members of the committee took notes, smoked and doodled while Gordon Kean, attorney for the committee, conducted the questioning.

Asked why the committee met in New Orleans instead of Baton Rouge, Sen. Claude Duval of Houma, committee vice chairman, said it was "to accommodate the situation."

He noted the idea of the meeting being conducted here was brought up earlier by Federal District Judge Lansing Mitchell. Judge Mitchell had proposed such a meeting before Marcello's jail term began during a hearing last week in which Marcello unsuccessfully sought an injunction prohibiting his appearance before the committee.

During the two and one-half hours of testimony, Marcello was cooperative and sometimes amiable. Shortly after adjournment at noon, he was whisked by attorneys through mobs of reporters and into torrents of rain.