

BILL LYNCH: LOUISIANA POLITICS**Some Legislative Probers
Seek to Recall Marcello**

BATON ROUGE — There is a movement underway among some members of the legislative Mafia committee to have Carlos Marcello recalled to testify before the group. Many questions which should have been asked at Marcello's previous appearance in New Orleans came to mind immediately after the session. In addition, committee members want a chance to review the transcript of the Jefferson Parish rackets figure's remarks before the committee.

Either the committee was ill-prepared to ask, or for some reason reluctant to ask penetrating questions when Marcello appeared. One problem that cropped up in the early hearings when state officials rushed to their own defense is that the committee did not have enough solid information on which to base penetrating questions.

Undoubtedly the committee would much have preferred to quiz Marcello somewhere down the line when its staff has put together enough information to proceed more adequately.

Not only may Marcello be called on to appear a second time, but so may some of those public officials who already have testified at public hearings.

Questions Not Asked

Some of the questions not asked when Marcello testified that should have been included:

—Why did Marcello list Gov. John J. McKeithen as a reference in a \$1 million Life insurance policy application in 1967, if he did as Readers Digest charged in a story on the Mafia influence in Louisiana.

**Marcello**

—Did Marcello have any assistance from any public official in returning to Louisiana after being deported to Guatemala in 1961? How did he

get back into the country and where did he stay immediately after his return?

Calling Marcello out of the order of its programmed priorities may have adversely affected the questioning. At the time, it appeared likely that Marcello would soon be in a federal prison on his conviction of assaulting an FBI agent. The committee was anxious to have him, even though it would have preferred his appearance at a time when it had launched into allegations surrounding Churchill Farms.

Outstanding Job

The committee has been concentrating

on the charges of corruption in the state Revenue Department and has done an outstanding job thus far of bringing to public light the depths of wrongdoing in the agency. It has had the help of several department employees anxious to bring an end to a pathetic system that may have cost the state millions of dollars in tax collections over the years.

The situation in the Revenue Department may have been stopped long ago if the district attorney of East Baton Rouge Parish, Sargent Pitcher, had pursued the information turned over to him by department employees. The same information is now being given to the Mafia committee.

Should Call Pitcher

The committee should summon Pitcher to appear before it to explain why his office did not pursue the matter. It should likewise summon the investigators who worked on the case to determine if adequate information had been found to warrant further investigation or grand jury action.

In its investigation of corruption of public officials and government, the Mafia committee owes it to the public to get answers to such questions as to why enforcement officers did not act on their own.

Two members of the Mafia committee, Sen. Claude Duval of Houma and Jim Levy, Bunkie newspaper publisher, spoke before a press group in Alexandria on the work of the committee. Levy is on the citizens advisory panel representing the press.

Levy took the position that Life magazine writer David Chandler may have done the state a good service in bringing about

the investigation which already has led to exposure of the Revenue Department.

Duval was not quite so enthusiastic and said he could only agree to that point of view only after Chandler testifies before the committee.

One obvious reason for Chandler's reluctance has been the hostility of some members of the committee and the pending libel suits against Life magazine.

TIGERS UPSET GOVERNOR

Aside from all of his troubles over the Life article and Mafia committee probe, Gov. McKeithen suffered another severe blow last Saturday night when the LSU Tigers were nipped in the last seconds of play by Texas A & M.

**McKeithen**

Unquestionably the Tigers' best known fan, McKeithen was beside himself about the loss. He was solemnly silent on his return to the mansion. And once there, he became so upset that he hit the wall with his fist, shouting, "The season's over. The season's over." The governor then asked his wife to see after visitors and retired for the night.