

Thousands Use 'Churchill,' Marcello Partner Claims

As many as 3,000 persons — some prominent attorneys, doctors, businessmen and officials — have passes to Carlos Marcello's Churchill Farms, one of Marcello's business partners said yesterday.

J. Folse Roy, who said he is part owner in Churchill Farms, a sprawling 6,000-acre tract on the West Bank of Jefferson Parish, said these prominent area officials, professionals and businessmen use the property for hunting and fishing.

"These people certainly have not forfeited their right to serve the community because they enjoy some hunting and fishing on Churchill Farms," said Roy, who made his statements at a news conference yesterday.

HE SAID THAT Joseph D. Lindsay, chairman of the Regional Planning Committee, should not be placed under media and civic pressure to resign because he has had business dealings with Marcello, a reputed rackets figure.

"Let everyone face up to the facts that Carlos Marcello has many interests," said Roy, "and there are very few people who don't do business with him directly or indirectly."

Roy added, "Everyone knows that Joseph D. Lindsay has done nothing wrong."

Lindsay has become a center of controversy since it was revealed that he wrote a business character letter for Marcello in 1968. A number of people — including two members of the planning commission's executive committee — have called for his resignation.

CHURCHILL FARMS figures prominently in the April 10 Life magazine article alleging organized crime influence in Louisiana. Life said the value of the land was enhanced greatly at the public's expense by some government road and levee developments.

There have been these other developments in the tangled

maze of controversy, charges and counter-charges concerning alleged dealings of Marcello and members of the New Orleans area community.

Metropolitan Crime Commission president James Schwartz said he was "flabbergasted and shocked" to learn that his ready-mix concrete firm has done business with the Town and Country Motel of Jefferson Parish, a Marcello-owned enterprise. Schwartz said his company did not solicit the business,

that he only learned of the work when the accounts receivable crossed his desk and that his employees will now consult with him when such orders are placed.

Roy originally mentioned that Schwartz's firm, Jimco, Inc., had sold concrete to the motel.

Jefferson Parish council president Charles J. Eagan said he personally asked Lindsay to resign a few weeks ago. But Eagan said the Jefferson council could not remove Lindsay, who represents Jefferson on the planning commission, because a 1956 law protects his position in the same way civil service employees are protected.

EAGAN SAID the final decision is up to Lindsay himself and that the RPC chairman "has not been accused of malfeasance, neglect of duty or inefficiency." Eagan added, "This is a matter of implied guilt by association."

Roy also charged that Thomas J. Lupo, a New Or-

leans representative on the planning commission who was the first to call for Lindsay's resignation, has tried to transact business with Marcello on at least 15 occasions. Roy said Lupo "actually did attempt to be a partner of Mr. Marcello."

Roy said he has a letter, given him by Marcello, attesting to a business relationship between Lupo and Marcello. He said he would release the letter at the proper time.

Lupo called Roy's statements about his meetings with Marcello "blatant lies."

The Jefferson Parish Council met in closed conference to debate charges of Lindsay's connections with Marcello but the council took no action publicly.

Eagan later said Lindsay is being victimized because of his opposition to a new Mississippi River Bridge at Causeway Boulevard in Jefferson Parish. Lindsay released a planning commission technical committee report favoring an uptown bridge and has strongly defended its findings. Lupo opposes a bridge in the uptown section of New Orleans.