

Homicide detectives today were checking several leads in the slaying early Saturday of the former St. Charles Parish public health officer, including reports he was threatened after filing charges against racketeer figure Carlos Marcello.

Capt. Anthony Polito, commander of the homicide division, said police had heard of the alleged threats against Dr. John B. Stotler, but said it was too early in the investigation to determine if they had any significance.

DR. STOTLER was shot to death when he answered the doorbell at his apartment, 1332 Esplanade, Apt. 2, shortly after midnight Friday.

Mrs. Jean Nunemacher, 41, 205 Maus, who was visiting Dr. Stotler, said she saw him open the door, heard a shot and watched as he staggered back into a chair.

"Oh my God, I've been shot," he said. He died moments later.

Dr. Stotler had complained that he received several telephone threats after filing charges against Marcello for allegedly owning and permitting the operation of an unauthorized garbage dump in St. Charles Parish last May.

DR. STOTLER had charged that the dump, called the "Pier 90 Dump" on the north side of Highway 90, harbored rats, operated without maximum rodent and nuisance controls, permitted open burning and had improper drainage.

He said later he received "four or five calls" to lay off the Pier 90 dump, including one directed to him through his secretary.

In one, the caller said, "This is a good friend of yours you don't know. I thought you might like to have a piece of advice. Lay off the Pier 90 dump."

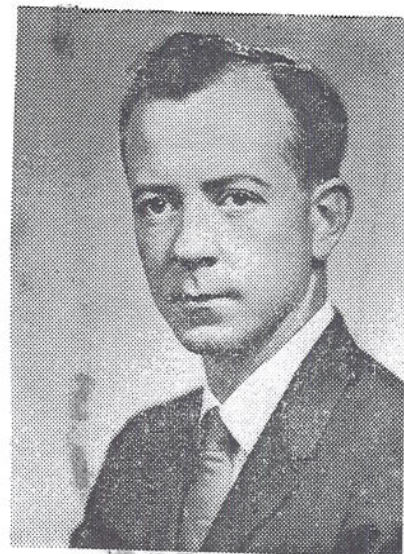
In another, he was told "Apparently you don't hear so well. Lay off the dump."

ASKED ABOUT these threats, Capt. Polito said, "We know about them."

"We have several leads and we're checking them out," he added. "It's just too early to tell what they will add up to."

Mrs. Nunemacher apparently did not

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Dr. John B. Stotler

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see the killers, the homicide chief said.

DR. STOTLER, who was 43, was at one time medical officer for a six-parish area. He was on an educational leave from his post as medical advisor for St. Bernard, St. Helena and Tangipahoa Parishes at the time of his death.

He was studying for a master's de-

gree in public health at the Tulane University School of Tropical Medicine.

Funeral services were to be at 1:30 p.m. today at the Rabinhorst Funeral Home in Baton Rouge, followed by religious rites at the First Presbyterian Church.

Dr. Stotler is survived by his mother, Mrs. John D. Stotler of Baton Rouge.