

Governor Is Accused Of Dictating Mob Probe

The attorney for Life magazine writer David L. Chandler has accused Gov. John J. McKeithen of dominating the Legislative Mafia Investigating Committee and of dictating its actions.

Cicero C. Sessions, in a motion filed with the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, charged the committee's hearings are being conducted "with the elements and attributes of a legislative trial."

The motion, filed last week, sought to abandon an appeal to prevent Chandler from testifying before the probe committee. A lower court action had denied Chandler's request and forced his appearance. Sessions, in the new motion, said the appeal had been "effectively mooted."

OF THE CONDUCT of the governor and mood of the interrogation of Chandler, Sessions stated:

"There were continuing and reiterated efforts, questions and demands directed toward . . . Chandler to disclose his sources of information and the identities of his informants. There were reiterated, predetermined, hostile and antagonistic expressions or conclusions already reached by the committee chairman and others demonstrating prejudgment . . ."

"In rebuttal to Chandler, the governor of Louisiana appeared, dominated and controlled the hearing, made

speeches, testified, produced other rebuttal witnesses, dictated that they appear and the order of their appearance, reiterated personal charges against (Chandler) and publicly demonstrated . . . his domination of the joint legislative committee."

Meanwhile, McKeithen called charges of Mafia influence in state government "an absolute, hypocritical hoax."

SPEAKING SATURDAY night to the Louisiana Press Women in Lake Charles, the governor said Carlos Marcello is the only reputed Mafia leader in Louisiana, while New York has 1,000

and California 500. His administration is far removed from Mafia influence, he declared.

McKeithen said it has been "a rough year" but added he has not made "125 cents" as governor and still is able to look his "widowed mother in the eye and say he hasn't made a mistake from the heart."

The state has enacted 46 pieces of reform legislation, including every recommendation of the Public Affairs Research Council (PAR), McKeithen said.

"I challenge any other state in the nation to match Louisiana's progress," he said.