

Appeal Court Won't Review Marcello Case

The State Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal has refused to re-hear a suit by Carlos Marcello attacking property taxes on his 4,000-acre Churchill Farms.

An appeal of the case to the Louisiana Supreme Court is expected.

The appeal court April 5 upheld a district court ruling affirming a \$250,000 increase in property assessment on land owned by the rackets figure.

The increases upped Churchill Farm's assessment from \$8,800 to \$263,388 a year and slapped the swampland area with a \$65,000 tax bill.

Marcello attorneys challenged the move, taken two years ago by the Louisiana Tax Commission, as illegal and asked the court to force equalization of Churchill Farms with neighboring property.

Churchill Farms was among three Marcello-connected companies hit with large property assessment increases by the tax commission.

The lower court ruled Marcello had "no right of action to contest the assessment" because he failed to file with the Jefferson Parish tax assessor any statement of value on the property, thus waiving any right to contest the assessment.

Marcello attorneys contend forms for filling out a value statement were unavailable.