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Governor Confirms Humphrey Warning

Asked VP Call Off '65 Trip

By BILL LYNCH
(States-Item Bureau)

BATON ROUGE — Gov. John J. McKeithen today confirmed that the U.S. Secret Service in 1965 asked Vice-President Hubert H. Humphrey to cancel a trip to Baton Rouge where he was scheduled to address a labor convention.

The States-Item revealed Monday that the Secret Service suspected a plot to assassinate the vice-president when he came to Baton Rouge April 9, 1965.

McKeithen told a press conference that he was informed by his security people that the Secret Service was concerned about the tense racial situation in Bogalusa at the time.

THE GOVERNOR said the vice-president asked if he (McKeithen) would be with him on his visit, and he replied yes. He said the vice-president then decided to come.

Gov. McKeithen said he did not know of any plot to kill the vice-president.

The States-Item learned from other sources that special sergeants-at-arms and federal agents were on the alert for a man identified as a possible assassin.

The man's photograph was distributed and when he entered the convention center in a downtown Baton Rouge hotel, he was allowed to take a prearranged seat.

THE MAN, WHO reportedly was armed with a pistol, was hustled from the auditorium when he rose as the vice-president and Gov. McKeithen entered from the front of the ballroom.

Two men were taken into custody and both were released that day.

Vice-President Humphrey's office has denied any knowledge of a plot to kill him at the time.