In Constant Contact with Agency, He Says

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ASHEVILLE, N. C. — Gov. John J. McKeithen said here Tuesday that the FBI knows that his administration is doing everything it can to stamp out any organized racketeering or crime in Louisiana.

The governor said to his knowledge there is no organized racketeering in the state with the exception of some allegedly illegal labor union activities in the Baton Rouge area that resulted in the shutdown of a series of construction projects.

He said his administration is trying to do something about that.

Gov. McKeithen said the FBI advised him of what is going on in the state. He added: “We are in constant contact with the FBI.”

RAPS ARTICLE

Gov. McKeithen, said he represented inferences in a recent article in a national publication on Carlos Marcello of Jefferson Parish.

Gov. McKeithen said Marcello, whom the federal government has tried on numerous occasions in the past to deport, is no longer engaged in crime activity.

He said Marcello, who is under federal indictment for striking an FBI man and could get up to five years imprisonment, is reportedly engaged in legitimate activities only. He said Marcello had made his wealth through gambling operations.

Nevertheless, the governor said, he still wished that Marcello, who has “given the state a bad name” was not a resident of the state. He said “we know what we are doing everything we can to corral him.”

McKeithen, who came to Asheville Sunday for the 53rd annual Southern Governors’ Conference, left the North Carolina city Monday to return to Baton Rouge. He said the Metropolitan Crime Commission as well as the FBI has complete information in his administration to curb and stamp out crime. He made this remarks in an interview.

WALLACE FAVORED

On Monday he told the governors at a formal session of the efforts of his administration to get rid of Marcello.

Gov. Paul B. Johnson Jr. of Mississippi said in an interview that former Alabama Gov. Wallace would carry Mississippi in the presidential election if Wallace becomes a candidate. He said neither the Democratic ticket headed by President Johnson nor any Republican candidate now being mentioned would have a chance against Wallace in his state.

Gov. Lester Maddox, Georgia, said he is confident that if Wallace becomes a candidate and the conditions in this country are the same in 1968 as they are now, the Alabamians would carry Georgia. At the same time, Maddox said, he planned to remain in the Democratic party rather than support a third party movement.

Gov. McKeithen said that in a confrontation with President Johnson there would be no question in his mind that former Gov. Wallace would defeat the President in Alabama. Also in response to a question, McKeithen said Louisiana’s substantial Negro vote would be cast in next year’s presidential election for President Johnson.

REPORT ADOPTED

At the formal business session Tuesday the Southern governors adopted a report of a series of improvements recommended for predominantly Negro colleges by the Southern Regional Educational Board.

Gov. Maddox said the proposal might result in a shutdown of some Negro institutions. The report asks for the “elimination of unnecessary duplications” in both public and private Negro institutions in the region. The report says that the report raised the possibility of either merging or shutting down the inferior schools.

Gov. Maddox said he had wondered if the United States would not raise the race question would not be raised at the conference.

Others Speak

Thus some states in particular are in need of sharing federal income to help match the grants-in-aid programs.

Gov. Robert E. McNair, South Carolina, said it is up to the governors to ask Washington to fit our needs instead of our fitting theirs.

Gov. Winthrop Rockefeller, Arkansas, said some states including his own, would face bankruptcy if they tried to match all the funds coming out of Washington.

Speakers at the Tuesday conference session included Secretary of Transportation Alan S. Boyd and federal Highway Administrator Lowell K. Bridewell.

The Department of Transportation is the newest of the cabinet departments of the federal government.

Secretary Boyd said federal contributions to transportation have now reached an annual level of nearly $6 billion. On the other hand, state and local expenditures for transportation have reached some $12 billion.

He said federal funds will only be invested in transportation where state, local and private funds cannot or should not do the job.