NEW ORLEANS (UPI) - A former top Louisiana official, indicted in the FBI's undercover Brilab investigation, Wednesday denied the charges and said entrapment was used to create "a blatant perversion" of justice.

Charles E. Roemer II, who served as Louisiana commissioner of administration under Gov. Edwin Edwards, responded to the indictment through his attorney with a blistering attack on federal prosecutors.

Roemer was indicted Tuesday with three other men — reputed racketeers boss Carlos Marcello, Washington consultant I. Irving Davidson, and New Orleans attorney Vincent Marinello. A federal grand jury charged them with racketeering, fraud and conspiracy.

None of the others have commented.

Roemer told a news conference he had read the 25-page indictment. "I found nothing that led me to believe that I had violated any law or misused my office in any way," he said. "I hope that now the case can be tried in a court of law and not the news media."

He admitted accepting $25,000 in cash from FBI informant Joseph Hauser but said it was taken strictly as a campaign contribution for State Sen. Edgar "Sonny" Mouton, who was running for governor at the time. It was not reported until after the investigation was publicized, but Roemer's attorney, Michael Fawer, said there was nothing unusual about that.

Fawer charged the government with distortion, entrapment and deception. He called Brilab "an ill-conceived and extremely costly project which, when analyzed, is a blatant perversion of our system of criminal justice."

After the news conference, Roemer smiled and joked with reporters and friends but refused to comment on specifics of the case. "Entrapment is obviously one aspect of this case," Fawer said.

"The indictment shrieks — the facts of the case — shrieks of entrapment. The government and the government agents were out there seeking to create the crime that is then alleged in the indictment."

Fawer said the Brilab investigation was designed to make Roemer and other officials "run the gauntlet" and see what would happen. Fawer said Roemer met several times with Marcello but he refused to provide specifics.

"I see nothing wrong in an individual in public life speaking with Carlos Marcello," he said. He said prosecutors ignored crucial facts in the indictment — Roemer's duties as campaign manager for Mouton and the heated governor's race.

"Nowhere in this lengthy accusation is there any mention of crucial facts which the government itself knows supports the undeniable innocence of Charles Roemer," Fawer said. "The indictment does not contain a single allegation that Mr. Roemer performed any improper act in exchange for the contribution he accepted; nor did he in fact agree to do anything improper."