

Rackets Taking Over Unions, McKeithen Says

NEW ORLEANS (UPI)—Gov. John McKeithen said Monday racketeers were taking over labor unions in Louisiana. He said the state was faced with one of the greatest crises in its history.

"It's getting worse, not better," the governor told reporters in a table-pounding news conference. "It will spread like a cancer and ruin this state forever unless we stop it."

McKeithen said the state would file more charges this week in connection with an armed attack on a construction project in Plaquemine, La., last month.

He pledged to arrest an unidentified state police captain, several "crooks" in Iberville Parish (County), and Baton Rouge, La., Teamster official Edward

G. Partin "as soon as we get the goods on him."

Partin, one of the key prosecution witnesses who helped send Teamsters President James Hoffa to jail, has denied Teamsters were involved in the Plaquemine attack.

McKeithen said the first arrests would be of "little people."

"We hope these little people we are going to arrest will eventually give us information on the big people that gave them their orders," the governor said.

McKeithen blamed the state's labor troubles on a small percentage of the labor segment in the Baton Rouge area. He said Teamster Local No. 5 was "not truly a labor union."