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Tribler
London

Mr. Wick

2-24-67

M. A. Jones

**WILLARD ROBERTSON
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
INFORMATION CONCERNING**

~~DO NOT FILE~~
~~RETURN TO RM. 4204~~

Pursuant to Mr. Tolson's request, the following is set forth from Bufiles regarding captioned individual, millionaire Volkswagen distributor reportedly financially backing District Attorney James Garrison in New Orleans.

By communication dated 10-18-63, the New Orleans Office related that an informant, one Frank Hegeman, a public relations man with a notorious reputation for passing bad checks and associating with various gambling figures, was contacted on 9-16-63. During this interview, he stated that Willard Robertson, a prominent and wealthy New Orleans businessman, was currently supporting John McKeithen, a Louisiana gubernatorial candidate in the state Democratic primary. Robertson reportedly had been extremely active in local New Orleans politics and had raised large sums of money for previous political campaigns, particularly that of Mayor Victor Schiro. Hegeman attributed these political activities to Robertson's desire for a good Government.

Hegeman further stated that Robertson had recently learned that McKeithen was being actively backed by Carlos Marcello, a Jefferson Parish racketeer, who was attempting to raise campaign funds by promising contributors influence in various state appointments. It was currently felt in political circles that if Robertson were to withdraw his support, McKeithen would stand little chance of election. Among those reportedly interested in removing Robertson as the backer of McKeithen was United States Senator Russell Long, who supposedly was upset over Marcello's support of McKeithen rather than that of candidate Speedy Long, favored by Senator Long. Speedy Long was regarded as the Democratic administration candidate and was considered the choice of the national Democratic Party. Hegeman advised that if McKeithen were elected Governor of the State of Louisiana, it was commonly felt in political circles that the state would become wide open insofar as gambling and other racketeering influences were concerned. John J. McKeithen was elected Governor of Louisiana in 1964.

1 - Mr. Wick
1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Tolson TDR:jo

1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Sullivan 395-10015
(CONTINUED)

