



Associated Press, United Press International

Second Class Matter  
Office: Baton Rouge, La.

—Just Plain Politics—

# Governor Shelves Feelers From GOP and Demo Groups On Vice Presidency Spot

By F. E. SHEPHERD

Early this year some top Democrats approached Gov. McKeithen with the proposal that he give some consideration to permitting himself to be mentioned as a possible party vice presidential candidate in 1968. The national Democrats have now renewed that request, and the national Republican party has made the same offer.

But, before some people get too indignant, it must be said that the governor turned both parties down with a flat "no."

McKeithen takes the position that he is seeking only one office at this time and that is being governor of Louisiana for a second successive time. He wants to be the first modern-day Louisiana governor to achieve this goal — and he says he wants to serve out his second term, if elected.

Top official state government sources last week tipped this writer about the new vice presidential nomination offers to McKeithen. When this writer was unable to get to the governor for confirmation, he went to a source close to the governor with the question. "Has the governor been approached recently by representatives of both national political parties on the matter of the vice presidential nomination in 1968?" The source, without hesitation, replied, "yes, that's right." But, this was followed immediately with the statement, "But he turned both

flattering a trend toward a little less tolerance with militant Negro rable-rousers who incite riots with inflammatory speeches. His mail contains stacks of letters from throughout the country from people who commend him for his stand against sedition and anarchy.

But, even before this latest racial incident the governor was being looked upon as a southern leader who should be considered in national elections in 1968. Time Magazine even had an appointment with him last winter to interview him as a possible Democratic party vice presidential candidate, but it was postponed when racial incidents were threatened at Bogalusa.

There was even a meeting here of some important Democrats to discuss the McKeithen vice presidential chances. And, this group met with the governor and told him of their conversation. He told them he was flattered, but did not commit himself. One of the state's top leaders in Congress was a party to the meeting, but later denied having any part in it. But, this denial came after he had confirmed to this writer he had taken part in the meeting and had spoken to McKeithen about the matter.

McKeithen is a Democrat—maybe not a Lyndon Johnson Democrat, but a Democrat. Every office he has held has been as a Democrat. This makes the offer from the Republicans even more flattering. Apparently this party, which prides itself on its conservatism—as opposed to LBJ's brand of liberalism—believes McKeithen's philosophy and record in the field of government could help them win the White House in 1968.

Some friends of the governor were a bit disturbed when they learned that this column might see

be written. They feared Louisiana voters would be convinced that McKeithen was seeking a second term in the mansion only as a stepping stone to Washington.

But, others take a more optimistic view. They believe the fact that McKeithen is being considered for this important national post by both parties is proof of what they know all along—that he is a sure-fire second-term winner and that his popularity spills far over the state's boundaries. After all, they reason, who can possibly knock a man for being accorded this type of recognition.

Party leaders see McKeithen as the political front-runner in the South, a man who believes the only way to get himself and his state somewhere is by taking giant steps, a firm believer in law and order at all costs and a man unafraid of political hot water.

There appears little likelihood that the governor would change his political affiliation. But, the Republicans are fighting among themselves as usual and they need a strong southern candidate to balance their ticket. The Democrats see the South as a total loss, as well as some of the other important electoral vote states, and they need an unusually strong southerner to offset vote losses if former Alabama Gov. George Wallace runs for president.

Party nominating time is a long way and much could happen in the interim. It could well develop that John McKeithen may be pushed yet into making a public choice of completing a four-year term or accepting a party nomination.

★ ★ ★  
POLITICAL TIDBITS—Because the legislature should concern itself with the attorney general's

ture  
swai  
to de  
tive  
such  
Rep.  
Rouge  
Iberia  
Madis  
Ville  
sey  
Jewe.  
Rep.  
are  
Keogh  
bumper  
dered  
needed  
law pr  
rumors  
his wit  
only r  
per co  
the Ho  
one-thi  
roduc  
same  
He was  
his "lit  
The Ma  
the offi  
Charles  
mer Re  
State T  
says th  
contrar  
into not  
said his  
again ca  
would be  
next te  
told th  
he pr  
again,  
change  
decided  
those w  
sire to  
cludi  
Parker,  
Democr.  
M a y  
Dumas  
of his o  
to the m  
Jimmy  
assistant  
s cond u  
where R  
seeking  
Bill Cow  
jor myst  
why som  
clean  
beaches, o  
ral tourist  
contends t  
should ur  
while pa  
they car  
of the  
Grand  
land



New Orleans State Times 5 Oct. 1967