

GREMILLION WON'T RELEASE
ETHICS DATA ON SELF

The Metropolitan Crime Commission today called on Attorney General Jack P. F. Gremillion to make public details of an investigation of him by the Louisiana Board of Ethics for Elected Officials.

The Ethics Board criticized Gremillion on Sept. 11 for his dealings with the financially troubled Louisiana Loan and Thrift Corp., but failed to call for a public hearing on the matter.

Gremillion issued an imme-

mediate statement saying he would not reply to the request to make his files and records available, mainly because the crime commission is not a state agency.

The MCC said today, in a letter to Gremillion, that the law setting up the Ethics Board provides that records of its private hearings and investigations be confidential, but may be made public at the written request of the official or person charged.

UNDER THIS RULE, the option for releasing the re-

sults of the Gremillion-LL&T probe would rest with Gremillion.

"We urge you to communicate with the Ethics Board in appropriate form, requesting that they make all records of your case available for examination by representatives of the MCC and of the public press.

"We believe the critically important public nature of the attorney general's office and the need to put at rest continuing doubts and ques-

See MCC— Page 12

MCC--

Continued from Front Page

tions obligate you to take this action."

THE LETTER WAS signed by MCC president Dr. J. D. Grey and managing director Aaron M. Kohn.

Earlier this year, the States-Item revealed that Gremillion received a \$10,000 fee for doing legal work for LL&T and subsequently issued a controversial ruling in the firm's favor which permitted it to operate for a time under state, rather than federal, regulation.

The Ethics Board investigated the matter and held Gremillion's actions failed to measure up to the standards prescribed in the state's code of ethics, but took no further action.

IN REFUSING THE commission's request to furnish records, Gremillion asked the press "in all fairness" to carry his statement in its entirety.

Gremillion's statement follows:

"Today, I received a letter from the New Orleans Metropolitan Crime Commission requesting that I turn over to them all of my files and records pertaining to transactions with this company.

"Following the provisions of the state Constitution, earlier this year I requested an advisory opinion from the Board of Ethics for State Elected Officials concerning my activities.

"LATER THE SAME Metropolitan Crime Commission filed a complaint with the Board of Ethics concerning my conduct. The Board of Ethics denied the complaint of the crime commission because it was hearsay and contained no legal foundation whatsoever.

"I cooperated with the Board of Ethics and submitted to them all documents, files and records in my possession. In addition to the information I filed, the board conducted a complete, thorough and independent investigation of its own. The complaint of the crime commission was denied. The Board of Ethics issued an advisory opinion to me by authority of the Constitution of the State of Louisiana.