

Attorney General Jack P. F. Gremillion today volunteered to testify before a federal grand jury here investigating Louisiana Loan and Thrift Corp., but whether he will be called remained in doubt.

Gremillion was to meet later today with U.S. Attorney Louis LaCour in New Orleans.

MEANWHILE, the jury called in W. W. McDougall, special assistant to Gov. John J. McKeithen, who brought with him records of the state Board of Ethics investigation of Gremillion's dealings with LL&T.

McDougall told newsmen he did not produce the records voluntarily, but did so only upon orders from the court.

After McDougall, the jury called Louis Carambat, vice president of the Bank of New Orleans. Also waiting to testify was Mrs. Charles Ritchey, wife of the former president of LL&T.

GREMILLION called a press conference in Baton Rouge but refused to answer questions. He read a prepared statement.

He told newsmen LaCour had notified him he would be glad to meet and discuss the matter, Gremillion added this does not necessarily mean he

will be called before the grand jury.

The attorney general said he supports a resolution pending in the Legislature, sponsored by New Orleans Sen. William Guste, calling for an investigation of LL&T and similar institutions in financial difficulty.

BUT GREMILLION said he

opposes a resolution calling for an investigation of him by the East Baton Rouge Parish district attorney, on grounds that he had been "cleared" by the Board of Ethics.

The Board of Ethics has ruled Gremillion failed to measure up to the standards

Turn to Page 18, Column 1

Continued from Front Page

prescribed by the Code of Ethics, but did not violate the law. It further held it could not pursue criminal aspects of the ethics law.

Gremillion was asked how he can claim the Ethics Board cleared him when it found he failed to measure up to the standards. This was when he refused to answer questions, saying he would not answer to anything that he might testify to before the grand jury.

THE ATTORNEY general said that at a later date he will answer questions and also make available to the public the Ethics Board records which he possesses.

He said the complete contents of the Ethics Board opinion have never been given wide publicity, although most newspapers in the state carried extensive stories on the opinion.

"It is significant," Gremillion said, "that the board found that I never owned nor do I now own any stock in LL&T and that I did not violate the code of ethics as prescribed by law."

GREMILLION said he would turn over his file to Lacour at their meeting late today.

He said again he will not submit his file to the Metropolitan Crime Commission of New Orleans, which had requested it, because the body is not a legally constituted authority.

"After the federal grand jury has heard my testimony and considered the contents of this file which I have in my hand, I intend to release it at the proper time, to the press and to any other interested parties, both private and public.

"I hope that I shall be able to give you copies of this file as soon as possible."

IN SUPPORTING the Guste resolution, Gremillion said he heartily recommends that the committee be given full subpoena powers to include everyone—all state officials, including the governor, the attorney general, the State Banking Commission and members of the Legislature.

Gremillion was cited by the Board of Ethics for receiving a \$10,000 fee for private legal work and then rendering official opinions concerning the firm.

A number of state officials and persons connected with Gov. John McKeithen were involved in dealings between Gremillion, the State Banking Commission and the LL&T.

ONE IMPORTANT opinion by Gremillion kept the LL&T from coming under the jurisdiction of the federal Securities and Exchange Commission before it went into bankruptcy proceedings.

After informing the press conference he planned to answer no questions, Gremillion said:

"In closing, I would like to say that I have served as attorney general of this state since 1956, diligently, ethically, and with a constant effort to improve our great state. I have never done anything to destroy the integrity of my office nor have I ever used my office for personal gain or profit. My report will bear out this statement.

"I, TOO, seek the truth and I pledge my full cooperation to finally clarify this whole situation.

McDougall spent about 45 minutes before the jury today and later told newsmen he is still under subpoena and expects to be called again tomorrow.

The records McDougall took with him were the same ones Gremillion told the news conference he would give the jury. He apparently did not

know the jury already had them.

BESIDES M'DOUGALL,

Mrs. Ritchey and Carambat, the jury also issued subpoenas for Carlos Spaht, an adviser to Gov. McKeithen, and Joe Kavanaugh, counsel for the Louisiana Banking Commission. The latter two were involved in the relations between the state and LL&T. Neither was on hand this morning.

McDougall said he was called in his capacity as chairman of the Ethics Board, not because of his role as an aide to the governor.

LL&T is in federal bankruptcy proceedings.

In the Legislature, Rep. Leon Soniat retrieved his resolution calling for a Gremillion - LL&T investigation from the administration's Judiciary B committee in the House, where it had been re-committed yesterday after he left for New Orleans.

SONIAT TOLD the House he had the bill originally put in Judiciary C committee. The bill was then taken out of that committee and put in Judiciary B after a mild floor fight.

During debate on Soniat's move this morning, Rep. E. L. Henry denied that the juggling of the bill was the "most inconsistent, discourteous thing I have ever heard of."

Rep. Parey Branton said he did not think the fate of the resolution should be influenced by the administration. The House then voted 78 to 1 in favor of bringing the bill back from the administration committee and returning it to Soniat's committee.