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Gremillion

NEW ORLEANS, La AP - A federal grand jury here indicted Louisiana Atty. Gen. Jack P. F. Gremillion on a charge of perjury Monday.

The five-count indictment charged that Gremillion lied under oath after appearing voluntarily in early 1969 before a federal grand jury investigating activities of the Louisiana Loan & Thrift Corp.

The firm is being reorganized under the federal bankruptcy act. A plan of liquidation was approved in U.S. District Court in November.

Gremillion and four other men were indicted Feb. 14, 1969 on charges of fraud and conspiracy in connection with the collapse of LL&T. Trials on the charges have been delayed by a long series of technical motions.

Others indicted last year with Gremillion were Charles Ritchey, former LL&T president; Joe Kavanaugh, former LL&T conservator; State Rep. Salvador Anzelmo of New Orleans, and Earnest A. Bartlett Jr., an organizer and official of LL&T and its parent firm, Arkansas Loan and Thrift Corp.

A spokesman for U.S. Atty. Gerald Gallinhouse said the indictment charges that Gremillion "knowingly and willfully made untrue statements in his testimony before the grand jury" when he made the following denials:

-that he owned stock in the LL&T; that he had an economic interest in the corporation, and that he granted a proxy for his shares of LL&T stock for a July 11, 1967 shareholders meeting.

The indictment also charges that Gremillion testified falsely when he said the April 15, 1967 \$700 LL&T check, note "Dividend No. 1," which he received, was a campaign contribution.

The grand jury returned the indictment before federal Judge Herbert W. Christanberry.

At the request of Asst. U.S. Atty. Julian R. Murray Jr., no arrest warrant was issued for Gremillion.

Murray advised the court that the attorney general's lawyers would be promptly advised about the indictment and they could arrange for Gremillion's voluntary appearance for arraignment.

"I'm not guilty of this and certainly I will fight it," Gremillion said later in an interview in his hotel room in New Orleans.

He charged that U.S. Atty. Gerald Gallinhouse of New Orleans "indicted me maliciously to protect his image."

"I suppose tomorrow the U.S. attorney will indict me for breathing federal air illegally," Gremillion said. "I'm going to sue him for malicious persecution, and I'm going to fight him to the bitter end."

"I have always cooperated with the federal government when I thought they were right and it was in the best interests of the people of Louisiana," he said. "I have always fought them when I thought they were wrong, again in the interests of my people. And the reward I get for believing in Democratic principles is a malicious indictment. This is the price my family and I have got to pay for standing up to our rights."

During the interview, Gremillion received a telephone call from his son, Donald, in Baton Rouge. "Put on some more bumper stickers, that's the only answer to it," he said jokingly, referring to his re-election plans.

Gremillion, who has served four consecutive terms, said he did not think the indictments would affect his plans to run for re-election next year.

CS1012ped July 6