

AL&T RECORDS CITE DA'S 'MAJOR ROLE'

By KERMIT TARLETON

Records introduced in federal court today show that the founders of Louisiana Loan and Thrift Corp. considered District Attorney Jim Garrison "a major contribution" to the formation of the company.

Lem Bryan, the receiver for the bankrupt Arkansas Loan and Thrift Corp., identified minutes of the AL&T board meeting in February, 1966, reflecting the dependence LL&T placed on the cooperation of Garrison, Gov. John J. McKeithen and other state officials.

Bryan testified in the fraud and conspiracy trial of Atty. Gen. Jack P. F. Gremillion, state Rep. Salvador Anzelmo and former LL&T board chairman Ernest A. Bartlett Jr.

HE PRODUCED the minutes of the Feb. 4, 1966, meeting of AL&T which said, "Bartlett stated he believed one of the major contributions to the company (LL&T) was in the person of Mr.

Jim Garrison, district attorney of Orleans Parish, who shall be openly associated with the corporation."

The second reference came from the minutes of a meeting of Feb. 28, 1966, which said, "Bartlett reported that Gov. John J. McKeithen and various state officials with whom he had been in contact concerning the founding of LL&T had been very helpful and cooperative and seemed impressed with the proposed operation.

"It was through Gov. McKeithen that we were put in contact with William A. Glennon. Jim Garrison, district attorney, has purchased 22,500 shares of LL&T and has offered his assistance in every way."

BRYAN WAS CALLED to identify a number of records including a stock certificate in Gremillion's name.

Earlier today a second government witness testified that in addition to missing stock certificate stubs, she is

unable to find ledger sheets referring to Gremillion's ownership of LL&T.

Mrs. Edna Robinson of Fort Smith, Ark., who was an LL&T vice president in 1966-67, said today she did not actually see the firm's board chairman rip out stock certificate stubs from the company books but she did see where such documents had been pulled from the records.

Mrs. Robinson also testified that ledger sheets referring to Gremillion's stock holdings, which she used in preparing a 1967 dividend list, now are missing from the LL&T records.

YESTERDAY, Mrs. Janyce Coman Degan said it was LL&T board chairman Ernest A. Bartlett Jr. who tore out the stock certificate stubs because he didn't want the attorney general's name to appear in the records.

Mrs. Robinson said she used the stock certificate stub book to com-

Turn to Page 20, Column 1

DA's 'Major' Role Cited

Continued from Front Page

pile the stock ledger sheets and then used the stock ledger sheets to compile the dividend list. It is these ledger sheets which she said she was unable to find today.

A CHECK FOR \$700 has been introduced into evidence as having been written to New Orleans attorney William A. Glennon Jr. and signed over to Gremillion.

Mrs. Robinson said she made a notation in the margin of the dividend list to hold Gremillion's check in Glennon's name.

Yesterday Mrs. Degan said she gave Glennon the check and he endorsed it over to Gremillion.

Glennon, who along with Anzelmo was an attorney with LL&T, and the late state banking commissioner A. Clayton James were named as co-conspirators but not indicted in this case.

MRS. ROBINSON was questioned at length about stock in Glennon's name which she said belonged to Arkansas Loan and Thrift, a firm also controlled by Bartlett. Bartlett was convicted and sentenced to five years in connection with operations of AL&T. He has appealed that conviction.

Under cross examination Mrs. Robinson was asked that if there had been errors in the stock certificate stub book would there necessarily have been errors in the stock ledger sheets she prepared. Mrs. Robinson agreed that was possible.

Mrs. Degan earlier had testified that Bartlett tore out the stock certificate stubs bearing Gremillion's name because Bartlett insisted the attorney general was not a shareholder and he did not want Gremillion's name in the records.

She also told of retyping minutes of

LL&T meetings to delete Gremillion's name from the records. She said Bartlett didn't even want him mentioned as a "guest or a speaker."

ASKED UNDER cross-examination if she ever knew Gremillion to pay for any stock in LL&T, she said no.

As to his role in the day to day operations of the company, Mrs. Degan said she could remember that he once checked the wording in the company's deposit pass books and made some changes before it was sent to the printer.

Indicted along with Gremillion, Anzelmo and Bartlett were former LL&T President Charles Ritchey, who has pleaded no contest and is awaiting sentence, and Baton Rouge Attorney Joseph Kavanaugh, who has been granted a separate trial.

MRS. DEGAN testified that Bartlett and Ritchey were close friends when the company was first organized but they had differences of opinion and wound up in a struggle over control of the company.

"Mr. Ritchey tried to get the company back to Louisiana," she said, "He felt it was going over to Arkansas."

The reference was to the connection LL&T had with Arkansas Loan and Thrift, also operated by Bartlett. AL&T also went bankrupt and Bartlett was convicted and sentenced to five years in connection with that company's operations. He is currently appealing.

Mrs. Degan also testified that Ritchey paid \$52,900 for LL&T stock owned by AL&T but bought it on behalf of the company. She said it was her understanding that he had acquired the stock for LL&T, but apparently had no authority for such action from the board of directors.