

Letters to The States-Item

Dismayed by

Old Lyme, Conn.

I am dismayed to learn that the State of Louisiana is proposing to legalize the hunting of white ibis because some crayfish farmers feel the birds take some of their crop. This makes about as much sense as making the robin a game bird because it eats cherries.

I trust the Pelican State, which has always been enlightened in its treatment of wildlife and which is now trying to reestablish the pelican as a breeding bird, will not take such a backward step.

The beautiful wading birds of the South are suffering from the progressive destruction of their habitat through drainage and pollution. They need protection—not persecution.

Roger T. Peterson

Why sudden interest?

Mandeville, La.

Why is the federal government and the news media suddenly making a big issue of the pinball machine payoffs and Jim Garrison? Ever since the machines have come into existence there has been payoffs. The same also applies to bookie joints.

As long as someone is willing to pay, someone will receive. There is not a politician in public office from the President on down who does not receive a reward of some kind for favors granted.

Is this publicity to cover up something more important that the government does not wish the people to know, or have we gone that far down the road to communism that the government will eliminate anyone who tries to point out the wrongdoings of our leaders and high officials?

John L. Dorsa

Capital punishment

According to the article appearing in The States-Item of June 28, "Death Penalties Are Reversed," the justices of the United States Supreme Court have ruled that the infliction of capital punishment is cruel and unusual.

U.S. After Him, McKeithen Feels

BATON ROUGE (AP) — Gov. John McKeithen says the federal government was trying to get something on him in the investigation which resulted in bribery charges against Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison of New Orleans and nine other men.

"They weren't there to get something on Jim Garrison," McKeithen told the Baton Rouge Press Club yesterday. "They were obviously trying to get something on McKeithen."

The governor apparently referred to a tape recording of an alleged conversation in which Garrison indicated he would ask McKeithen to kill legislation in the 1971 session to outlaw gambling-type pinball machines.

McKeithen said he planned to go to New York next week

in another effort to form a syndicate to buy \$113 million of construction bonds for the Louisiana Superdome in New Orleans. He was optimistic that the bonds would be sold at the August offering.

Referring to the Thursday action of the Arkansas Racing Commission ordering Emprise Cor. of Buffalo, N. Y., to divest itself of all but 10 per cent of its interest in the Southland Racing Corp. at West Memphis, Ark., a greyhound track, McKeithen said it might represent a "happy decision" for Louisiana.

Emprise, the majority stockholder in the Jefferson Downs race track at Kenner, was labeled by the Arkansas commission as detrimental to the public interest because of its alleged association with persons with criminal records.

17 July 71