

# Unpledged La. Delegation Probable, Governor Says

By BILL LYNCH  
(States-Item Bureau)

BATON ROUGE — Louisiana's delegation to the Democratic National Convention probably will go unpledged, Gov. John J. McKeithen said today.

The governor had been quoted last week at a Washington news conference as saying that the state's 36 votes at the convention in Chicago would be pledged to President Johnson. He said today he was misquoted at the time.

McKeithen told a press conference here that members of the Democratic State Central

Committee, which technically elects the delegation, feel they cannot vote to pledge Louisiana to Johnson.

THE GOVERNOR, titular head of the state Democratic party, said that he feels the Louisiana votes will be cast for Johnson at the convention but that the delegates would not be instructed in advance.

McKeithen said he did not plan to attend the convention but expected to take part in

the selection of delegates.

Louisiana normally casts its votes as a unit and at the last two conventions cast them for Johnson.

The governor said he felt Sen. Robert F. Kennedy of New York was extremely popular in Louisiana because of the Kennedy name but added he felt Johnson could beat him in a head and head race. He said he felt that George Wallace of Alabama would lead both.

HE SHRUGGED OFF suggestions that he might be a candidate for vice-president on either a Kennedy or Wallace-led ticket. He said that Wallace, who declared yesterday in New Orleans that he would be for McKeithen, already has a running-mate in former Governor Marvin Griffin of Georgia.

The governor repeated that he expects the delegation to

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be integrated but declined to estimate the ratio of Negro delegates. He said he thought the Central Committee, now dominated by conservatives, would agree to integrate the delegation.

LOUISIANA NORMALLY assigns a half vote to each delegate and provides an alternate for each half vote.

There are no plans at present, he said, for him to go as a favorite son to the convention. He said the plan doesn't have any attractiveness for him.

On other matters, McKeithen said he is refraining from openly endorsing anyone for president pro tem of the Senate. Sen. Michael H. O'Keefe of New Orleans feels he has the inside track with McKeithen for the spot.

THERE HAVE BEEN several suggestions that the Senate vote in secret ballot for the next president pro tem.

The governor said there are a number of his close supporters (including Sen. Jamar Adcock of Monroe and O'Keefe) seeking the post and he had been asked not to say publicly who he favored.

He praised O'Keefe as a "comer" in Louisiana politics and said he was a good prospect for governor. "I can't speak too highly of O'Keefe," he said.

McKeithen said that he would support local option urban renewal but was not certain that it should be an administration measure as such.

SPEAKING ON the tax equalization problems, the governor said supporters of the movement may have virtually insured it would not be passed in the Legislature except by court order by claiming that it would cure the state's revenue problems. He said it was his understanding that tax equalization would not provide the state one more dollar.

Noting support of tax equalization by Mississippi Gov. John Bell Williams, McKeithen said, "I admire his courage."