

NS STATES-ITEM

## Gremillion Probers Will Meet Aug. 24

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP)—The three-member State Board of Ethics will meet again in Baton Rouge Aug. 24 to take an expanded look at Atty. Gen. Jack Gremillion's dealings with a New Orleans loan company now in receivership.

The board gathered here yesterday to study a two-volume report on Gremillion's dealings with Louisiana Loan and Thrift Co., then decided it did not have enough information to judge whether a public hearing was necessary.

THE ETHICS body is acting on a written complaint that Gremillion violated the Code of Ethics by receiving a \$10,000 private legal fee and \$150,000 in loans from the company.

The complaint, made by Aaron Kohn, director of the New Orleans Metropolitan Crime Commission, centers on a ruling Gremillion issued as attorney general after receiving the legal fee.

The ruling gave the company the status of a bank under Louisiana law.

"The board took the report under study and instructed that additional information be obtained as soon as the records of Louisiana Loan and Thrift become available," said a statement issued yesterday.

THE STATEMENT said "the report of the board's investigation was incomplete due to the unavailability of certain records . . ." which are held by a federal bankruptcy referee.

The board deferred a request by Gremillion for an advisory opinion on the matter, saying the complaint and the request would be handled as related matters.

Gremillion had at first asked for an advisory opinion on the propriety of the \$10,000 legal fee. The board declined to give one, saying that his request did not detail all his dealings with the firm.

GREMILLION then amended his request to include more information. It was on the expanded request that the board deferred action yesterday.

Only at a public hearing may a decision on whether the code has been violated be reached. If it is found that a violation exists, then the matter moves to state district court. Penalty for violation is \$2,000 fine.

Gremillion has maintained that he is innocent of wrongdoing in his dealings with the firm.