

McKeithen 'Clear In LL&T Matter'

Gov. John J. McKeithen was "in no way improperly involved" with the Louisiana Loan and Thrift Corp., the secretary of the Board of Ethics for State Elected Officials said today.

W. W. McDougall said that in his capacity as secretary, he reviewed the report of the investigation of Attorney General Jack P. F. Gremillion's LL&T connections, and it showed the governor was not improperly involved.

M'DOUGALL SAID he made this statement earlier, but wanted to reemphasize it now because McKeithen's name has again been mentioned in connection with the firm, now in federal bankruptcy proceedings.

Here is McDougall's statement:

"At the time the decision of the Board of Ethics for State Elected Officials in regard to Atty. Gen. Gremillion and

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the Louisiana Loan & Thrift Corp. was released, I made the following statement in regard to Gov. McKeithen's relationship in the matter:

"A VERY THOROUGH and complete investigation was made of the relationship of Atty. Gen. Gremillion with the Louisiana Loan & Thrift Corp. and of other persons mentioned in connection with this matter. Since Gov. McKeithen's name has been mentioned, it is proper for me to say that the record shows that Gov. McKeithen did not participate in the organization of this company; did not attempt to influence any opinion or action affecting the company, and in every respect his conduct was completely ethical and proper."

"IN MY OFFICIAL capacity I have had an opportunity to review a complete report of investigations in regard to involvement of public officials with the Louisiana Loan and Thrift Corp. This report indicated that the governor was in no way improperly involved and it further disclosed that he had resisted strong pressure from personal and political friends to become involved. In my opinion the restraint that he exercised was admirable.

"I am not a spokesman for the governor, I am not appointed by him, and I do not serve at his pleasure; but after continually hearing and reading suggestions that he might have been improperly involved with Louisiana Loan & Thrift Corp. and possessing information that this is not true, I could not, in good conscience remain silent."