

# Urge Governor To Seek Probe Of Gremillion

The Metropolitan Crime Commission today called on Gov. John J. McKeithen to back a move for a full legislative probe of the relationship between Attorney General Jack P. F. Gremillion and the controversial Louisiana Loan and Thrift Corp. State Sen. Charles W. Smither called for the legislative investigation of Gremillion's ties with the firm, now in federal bankruptcy proceedings.

IN A LETTER to the governor signed by Dr. J. D. Grey, MCC president, the group charged that Gremillion's "selfishly motivated decisions in the LL&T matter have placed in jeopardy the savings of hundreds of families."

Here is the text of Dr. Grey's letter:

"The Metropolitan Crime Commission urges that your leadership be given to stimulate support for Sen. Charles Smither's efforts to bring about a full legislative probe of the relationship between Attorney General Jack Gremillion and the Louisiana Loan and Thrift Co., and to factually determine the validity of other allegations and suspicions now arising from activities of the attorney general.

"ATTORNEY General Gremillion now stands publicly accused of 'a substantial failure to measure up to the standards prescribed' by the Louisiana Code of Ethics. . . .

"In a period of critical public concern for law and order, it is imperative that the chief law officer of this state be trustworthy and a focal point of public confidence.

"Our attorney general is vested with vast powers and responsibilities. Many of the agencies of state government must rely upon him for legal guidance in the public interest. His selfishly motivated decisions in the LL&T matter have placed in jeopardy the savings of hundreds of families. The public now wants to know how his other personal economic involvements may have affected their interests.

"THE ATTORNEY general makes key decisions which affect your discretionary powers to pardon or commute sentences of convicted criminals. This process frequently has been the subject of public scandals. This and other functions of Attorney General Gremillion now become suspect.

"Final action of our state legislators often is dependent upon the legal rulings and advice of the attorney general. They must have full confidence that his opinions are motivated solely by the law and the public interest.

"Public confidence in Mr. Gremillion has been shattered. A full-scale legislative probe, objective and impartial, is needed to either restore confidence in Mr. Gremillion or to replace him with someone who justifies such confidence."

# Refuse to Review Gremillion Ruling

By BILL LYNCH  
(States-Item Bureau)

BATON ROUGE—The state board of ethics today declined to reconsider its decision not to hold a public hearing on Attorney General Jack P. F. Gremillion's involvement with the Louisiana Loan and Thrift Corp. as requested by the New Orleans Metropolitan Crime Commission.

W. W. McDougall, secretary for the board, said that the ethics body had decided that the Gremillion case was closed and it would not enter into a debate with the MCC or any other group over it.

He said the board would consider the matter again only if a new complaint based

on a new charge is filed with the board.

THE ETHICS BOARD had held that Gremillion had failed to measure up to the standards of the ethics law in an advisory opinion based on his relationship with LL&T

and a \$10,000 fee he received. The board said there was a conflict of interest but that such was not prohibited by the ethics law.

At the same time, the ethics board ruled that a public hearing would not disclose any more than had been de-

veloped in a private investigation and disclosed in the advisory opinion.

It held that it did not believe there would be substantially anymore evidence developed to bring criminal

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charges against Gremillion under the ethics law.

DR. J. D. GREY, president of the MCC, and Aaron M. Kohn, managing director, had asked the board to reconsider its decision to not hold a public hearing.

The MCC also requested a meeting between the board and the MCC to discuss legislation that would lead to preventing the attorney general from practicing law on the side.

THE BOARD OF ETHICS when it issued the opinion had suggested that this be done. At the same time, it suggested that Gremillion voluntarily refrain from private practice.

Gremillion has yet to acknowledge the board's request and has not held a press conference to answer questions about the matter.