

TUESDAY

## Jimmie Davis Eyes 3rd Run For Governor

By BILL NEIKIRK

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP)—It's an open secret in Louisiana political circles that Jimmie H. Davis, twice the state's chief executive, would like another term as governor. He wants to be the first man elected governor three times.

Davis, for the record, won't admit he's running, saying: "It's too early to get into that deep water now."

He will admit, however, that he's receiving twice as much encouragement to run for governor than in his previous two successful tries.

IN RECENT months Davis has been visiting small towns around the state, shaking hands and talking to the local political leaders in the courthouses.

For most of the past five years, since he left the governor's mansion, Davis has devoted his time to recording songs, making personal singing appearances and farming.

Davis, composer of "You Are My Sunshine," was governor from 1944-48 and from 1960-64. Friends say he'd like to top the record of Earl K. Long, who served three times as governor but who was elected only twice. Long, who died in 1960, moved up to the top post the first time from the lieutenant governorship.

"IT'S TOO early to make a positive or a negative statement," Davis said yesterday.

"I'm just as interested in state government as I have ever been. But I'd like to know what I'm doing before I start in."

He said the "encouragement and solicitation" had come from all over the state, including "people I've never had before."

Davis said he would take a look at the governor's race "at the proper time." He didn't say when that would be. The primary election for governor comes up in 1971.

"You can't do a lot of wishful thinking—let your imagination run away with you," he former governor said.

HE SAID that is the way he is viewing the early encouragement that he is getting.

Davis, 67, is noted for his caution in surveying the political climate before making up his mind. He has been prominent in Louisiana political life for more than 30 years and has never lost a race.

"I wouldn't run just to be running," he said in explaining his philosophy. "I'd run to win."

If Davis should enter the ring, he would undoubtedly wage a strong campaign against Gov. John McKeithen's administration. So will practically everyone else in the race.

HE DID say at the time that the amendment wasn't fair to the people because he felt a governor could control everything in the state in eight years.

Since then, Davis has used his time to record songs, farm, make personal appearances, and public relations work.

He married a member of the "Chuck Wagon Gang," a country music group, some two years after the death of his first wife. They frequently sing together.

Asked how his wife felt about his possible re-entry into political life, Davis said, "She just says 'That's his business.' She hadn't been living a political life."

But, according to the way Davis' close friends are talking, the former governor will make that re-entry.