

# Third-Term Bid Is Ruled Illegal

By BILL LYNCH  
(States-Item Bureau)

BATON ROUGE—Gov. John J. McKeithen cannot seek a third straight term even if he resigns prior to the expiration of his current term in 1972, Att. Gen. Jack P. F. Gremillion ruled today.

Gremillion issued the ruling in response to a question by Ted Husser, alderman of the town of Jonesville.

Husser specifically wanted to know if McKeithen can quit as governor 30 days before the end of his term in May, 1972, allowing Lt. Gov. C. C. "Taddy" Aycock to become acting governor, and seek an-

other shot at the governorship.

THE GUBERNATORIAL primaries, of course, will have preceded such a date.

When the constitution was amended to permit two straight terms, allowing McKeithen to seek immediate re-election, the law specified:

"No person shall be eligible for election to the office of governor or lieutenant governor who is less than 30 years of age, or who has not been, for at least the 10 years preceding his election, a citizen of the United States and of this state, or who holds of-

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fice under the United States at the time of election.

"ANY PERSON shall be eligible as a candidate for nomination, election or re-election to the office of governor for two consecutive terms; but no person, including the governor in office at the time of the adoption of this amended section, shall be eligible as a candidate for nomination, election or re-election to the office of governor for the term immediately following the second consecutive term to which he was elected as governor."

In response to Husser's question, Gremillion said:

"The language indicates that resignations would in no way affect the provisions of the article above quoted."

There has been some speculation that the wording of the constitutional amendment was not sufficient to block a third term bid by Gov. McKeithen, even though that was the intent of the Legislature when it included the phrasing naming the present governor.

THE ATTORNEY general's opinion in effect says that McKeithen can't seek another term in 1972.

There has been no indication that McKeithen is interested in another four years in the mansion. On the other hand, there has been considerable conjecture that he is building up momentum to run for the Senate in 1972 when Sen. Allen J. Ellender's term expires.

McKeithen also has voiced sentiment for heading a third party movement for president.