

Gremillion Asks Dismissal Of Indictment

Louisiana Atty. Gen. Jack P. F. Gremillion has asked the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to dismiss an indictment in which he is charged in connection with the financial death of Louisiana Loan & Thrift Corp.

Gremillion yesterday filed a petition for a writ of prohibition against Judge Frederick J. R. Heebe of U.S. District Court, who has been assigned the case for trial.

The attorney general asked the appellate court to direct Heebe to strike from the indictment all allegation of official action taken by Gremillion in his official capacity in connection with LL&T.

Gremillion and four others have been under federal grand jury indictment for fraudulent sale of unregistered securities, mail fraud and conspiracy.

Gremillion is specifically accused of issuing in his official position certain legal opinions concerning the firm's status under state and federal law.

He claims the indictment does not allege that he wrongfully issued the opinions nor does it charge him with misconduct in office.

His contention is that the doctrine of judicial immunity prohibits the attorney general from being "hailed into court to defend his opinions."

The others charged with Gremillion are state Rep. Salvatore Anzelmo of New Orleans, a former attorney for LL&T; Charles Ritchey, former president of the firm; Ernest A. Bartlett Jr. of Fort Smith, Ark., former chairman of the board, and Joseph Kavanaugh, a Baton Rouge attorney.

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Court Denies Gremillion Dismissal ^{25 Feb 71}

The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals here has rejected a plea by Atty. Gen. Jack Gremillion that he be dismissed from an indictment charging him in connection with the operations of the financially distressed Louisiana Loan & Thrift Corp.

Gremillion and four other men are charged with conspiracy, mail fraud, fraud in the sale of securities and sale of unregistered securities.

Gremillion also was accused of issuing in his official capacity certain legal opinions concerning the status of LL&T under state and federal laws.

The other defendants are Rep. Salvador J. Anzelmo of New Orleans, former attorney for LL&T; Charles Ritchey, former LL&T vice president; Ernest A. Bartlett Jr., Fort Smith, Ark., former board chairman, and Joseph Kavanaugh, Baton Rouge attorney.

Kavanaugh was granted a severance and will be tried separately. Trial for the others was set for April 5.

In Alexandria, Camille Gravel Jr. said yesterday he is withdrawing as Gremillion's attorney because of trial date conflicts with cases in the Alexandria area. He said Alva Brumfield of New Orleans, who had been retained by Gremillion as co-counsel, might have to withdraw from the case because of illness.