

## LL&T Mistrial Asked; Juror's Illness Cited

By KERMIT TABLETON

Defense attorneys moved for a mistrial in the Louisiana Loan and Thrift Corp. fraud and conspiracy trial on the grounds the condition of a woman juror who became ill yesterday may not allow her to take part in active deliberations.

U.S. District Judge Alvin B. Rubin did not issue an immediate ruling on the motion and allowed the jury of eight men and four women to continue deliberations, now in their fifth day.

**THE JURY IS** considering the fate of Atty. Gen. Jack P. F. Gremillion, state Rep. Salvador Anzelmo and former LL&T board chairman Ernest A. Bartlett Jr., charged on 15 counts in connection with operations of the bankrupt New Orleans-based firm.

Deliberations were held up five hours yesterday because of the illness of Mrs. Exso Rome of Kraemer, La.

She was treated by a government nurse and examined by a physician who determined she could continue to serve as a juror.

Jerome Winsberg, an attorney for Bartlett, made the motion for a mistrial. He was joined in the motion by attorneys for Gremillion and Anzelmo.

**WINSBERG SAID** his motion was based on Mrs. Rome's condition and on what could happen to her in the future. He said the juror's condition yesterday was "to the point of hysteria" and said it may be that she should take no further active part in deliberations.

Judge Rubin, in refusing to rule immediately on the motion, said there was no urgency at this time. He offered the defense time to submit memorandums in support of their legal position. He set no deadline for submitting the memorandums.

"I want to state for the record," Judge Rubin said, "that factual conclusions and testimony give me no indication of a serious emotional problem."

**JUDGE RUBIN** said testimony of Dr. Ted Bloch, who examined Mrs. Rome yesterday, indicated there was nothing in the woman's condition which would adversely affect her duties as a juror. He said Dr. Bloch's testimony indicated Mrs. Rome's illness was a simple gastric condition brought on by nervousness.

The judge said all of the jurors must be under some emotional strain. He praised the jury as one of the most diligent he has worked with and said it "certainly appears to be an objective" jury. He said the fact the jury voted to begin deliberations at 8 a.m. today, one hour early, is an indication of its

conscientiousness.

Today's hearing on Mrs. Rome's condition was a continuation of one begun yesterday when Judge Rubin ruled she was capable of continuing as a juror.

**DR. BLOCH** testified that Mrs. Rome indicated she had suffered a tightening of the stomach for the past three days, that she was not eating properly and that she had been on jury duty for seven weeks.

F. Irvin Dymond, an attorney for Gremillion, called Mrs. Rome's condition a "hysterical episode." Dr. Bloch took issue with this contention, saying he found no manifestations or any history of emotional instability.

**MRS. MARY V. Summerlin**, a clerk in the U.S. marshal's office, said she was on duty outside the jury room yesterday and was called in when Mrs. Rome complained of illness.

Mrs. Summerlin said she found Mrs.

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Rome "crying a little" and complaining of indigestion-type pains in the chest. She said she first took Mrs. Rome to the rest room and then took her to the government clinic in the Custom House, where Mrs. Rome was given medication.

She said that on the way back to the jury's hotel Mrs. Rome appeared to be in the best of spirits and indicated she was ready for lunch. She said Mrs. Rome ate lunch and said she was

ready to go back on duty with the jury.

**ELNORA RAND**, a Public Health Service nurse, told the hearing Mrs. Rome was "rather nervous and upset and hadn't been able to sleep or eat. She said she had never done this before, served on a jury, and she wanted desperately to do a good job."

Testimony during the trial centered around the role Gremillion played as attorney general and as a legal counsel for the firm. Opinions by the attorney general were cited as reasons for removing the company from federal controls.

Anzelmo was a stockholder and director at one time and later was legal counsel. Bartlett was the prime organizer and chief executive officer during much of the life of the firm.

Also indicted were former LL&T President Charles H. Ritchey, who has pleaded no contest and is awaiting sentencing, and Baton Rouge attorney Joseph Kavanaugh, who has been granted a separate trial.

Named as co-conspirators but not indicted were New Orleans attorney William A. Glennon Jr., one of the organizers, and the late A. Clayton James, then state banking commissioner.