

3 FOUND NOT GUILTY IN

LL&T FRAUD CASE

Related Stories on Page 10

By KERMIT TARLETON

State Atty. Gen. Jack P. F. Gremillion, state Rep. Salvador Anzelmo and Arkansas businessman Ernest A. Bartlett Jr. all were found not guilty today in the federal court fraud and conspiracy trial in connection with operations of Louisiana Loan and Thrift Corp.

The verdict was returned at 11:08 a. m. on the 45th day of the trial before U.S. District Judge Alvin B. Rubin and a jury of eight men and four women. It came after 35½ hours of deliberations over a six-day period.

Each defendant was found not guilty on all 15 counts of the lengthy indictment.

THE VERDICTS were read by a court clerk before a standing room only crowd in Judge Rubin's courtroom on the third floor of the Wild Life and Fisheries Building in the French Quarter. The defendants and their attorneys stood facing the judge.

After being told by the jury foreman that a verdict had been reached, Judge Rubin told the clerk to read the verdict.

The verdicts were read on each count separately, with the names of the defendants read in alphabetical order.

"ON THE first count, as to Anzelmo, not guilty," the clerk read. Anzelmo broke out crying.

"As to Bartlett, not guilty." Bartlett showed very little emotion.

"As to Gremillion, not guilty." The attorney general's wife wept loudly. Gremillion sat down.

The judge allowed all of the defendants to sit down and the clerk methodically read out "not guilty" on each of the remaining 14 counts of the indictment.

THE FIRST count of the indictment charged the three men with conspiracy.

Counts 2 through 6 charged fraud in the sale of securities.

Counts 7 through 11 charged mail fraud.

Counts 12 through 16 in the original indictment charged the sale of unregistered securities.

The 14th count was dismissed at a pre-trial hearing.

When the clerk completed the reading of the verdicts, Gremillion moved to the edge of his seat and it appeared he was going to applaud the verdicts. He stopped just before his hands came together, got up from his seat and

threw his arms around his attorney, F. Irvin Dymond. Gremillion began jumping up and down and Judge Rubin called for order.

GREMILLION appeared in court today dressed in a gray sport coat, blue trousers, a white shirt and a blue and white striped tie.

Anzelmo was dressed in what he calls his "lucky seersucker sport coat." He has worn the coat every day

Turn to Page 8, Column 1

Continued from Front Page

of the trial. He wore blue trousers, a blue shirt and a blue striped tie.

Bartlett was dressed in a brown suit, yellow shirt and a brown striped tie.

The courtroom in which the verdicts were returned was not the same room in which the three were tried. The trial was held in the larger courtroom of U.S. District Judge Herbert W. Christenberry.

AS SOON as the verdict was read, Judge Rubin thanked the jury for what he considered "their very hard work in reaching this verdict." He also thanked the jury on behalf of the public.

He said that while he had admonished jurors not to talk about the case, they are now free to do so.

However, he told them not to discuss their deliberations or voting with newsmen or with any of the principals in the case.

He then excused the jury and the eight men and women walked out of the courtroom.

AS THE jurors left the room the three defendants shook their hands.

Two other men also were indicted in the case.

Charles Ritchey of Metairie, former president of LL&T, has pleaded no contest to seven counts of the indictment and is awaiting sentencing.

Baton Rouge attorney Joseph Kavanaugh was granted a separate trial and is scheduled for trial later this year.

NEW ORLEANS attorney William A. Glennon Jr., a key government witness, and the late A. Clayton James, former state banking commissioner, were named co-conspirators in the case but were not indicted.

LL&T, a New Orleans-based firm, opened for business May 26, 1966. It was reorganized under federal bankruptcy laws soon after a petition for reorganization was filed in November of 1968.

The company was described in the indictment as one side of an intricately designed financial structure which also involved Arkansas Loan and Thrift Corp. and Savings Guaranty Corp. of Arkansas, the firm that insured LL&T deposits.

Another Victory for Gremillion

Attorney General Jack P. F. Gremillion, who has made a career of opposing the federal government, today won another victory over it.

He, along with state Rep. Salvador Anzelmo and Ernest Bartlett of Ft. Smith, Ark., stands acquitted of committing fraud in connection with the operations of the bankrupt Louisiana Loan & Thrift Co.

Anzelmo, who based his last campaign for re-election on opposition to dishonest loan companies, is now cleared of charges of having helped operate one.

HERE IS A RUNDOWN on the careers of those acquitted.

A native of Donaldsonville, Jack Paul Faustin Gremillion has served as Louisiana's attorney general for 15 years. Throughout he has defended states' rights in desegregation battles and Louisiana's rights to oil-rich tidelands.

The former assistant district attorney of East Baton Rouge Parish studied law at

Louisiana State University and was admitted to the Louisiana bar in 1937. He has practiced at all court levels including the U.S. Supreme Court.

GREMILLION, WHO will be 57 June 15, is married to the former Doris McDonald. They have five children.

During his battles surrounding racial desegregation in Louisiana, Gremillion was found guilty of contempt of court for branding a three-judge federal court a "kangaroo court" and a "den of iniquity."

The incident occurred in 1960 during Orleans Parish school segregation hearings when Gremillion stormed out of the hearings as three federal judges heard testimony to block state action to prevent desegregation.

GREMILLION was long involved in the tidelands controversy and sought to secure oil rights for the state.

He once was named the most outstanding attorney general in the nation by the

National Association of Attorneys General.

He is a World War II veteran, a past president of the Baton Rouge Young Men's Business Club, a past American Legion post commander, a past grand knight in the Knights of Columbus and has held many civic memberships.

REP. ANZELMO, serving his third consecutive House term from New Orleans' Sixth and Seventh Wards, ran in his latest bid for election on a campaign promise to crack down on loan sharks. In his

platform, he favored legislation to guarantee fairness to consumers and eliminate loan sharks charging high interest rates.

He was graduated from Warren Easton High School and attended Louisiana State University before joining the Army in World War II. During five years of service, he was awarded five Battle Stars, the Silver Star, the Bronze Star and Purple Heart.