

The LL&T verdict

The immediate reaction of many persons to the jury's verdict in the Louisiana Loan & Thrift Corp. case is one of outrage and frustration based on a feeling that the defendants should have been found guilty.

The reaction, although on a much smaller scale, is not unlike that which followed the war crimes conviction by a military court martial of Army Lt. William L. Calley Jr. At that time, many persons thought Lt. Calley should have been exonerated, not so much on the basis of the facts as on the basis of their own feelings.

We neither affirm nor dispute the jury's verdict of innocence in the LL&T case. It is a fact and we accept it. If one accepts this country's system of justice — and we do — then one must accept its judgments, whether or not one always agrees with them.

For Atty. Gen. Jack P. F. Gremillion, however, the story may not be over yet. He still faces perjury

charges in connection with his LL&T involvement.

We have one additional comment concerning Mr. Gremillion. Regardless of the fact that he has been found innocent of fraud and conspiracy charges in the LL&T case and regardless of the perjury charges he still faces, we believe it is clear that he has misused and abused the powers of the office of attorney general.

This newspaper believes the Ethics Committee of the Louisiana State Bar Association should investigate Mr. Gremillion's conduct, which, in our opinion, has brought no credit to the legal profession in this state.

In 1968, the state Board of Ethics for Elected Officials found Mr. Gremillion guilty of a conflict of interest in connection with the use of his authority to advance the interests of LL&T. Based on that finding, we called for Mr. Gremillion's resignation. We reiterate that call today.