

ACTION ON GREMILLION BEGUN

By BILL LYNCH

United States Attorney Gerald J. Gallinghouse today said he plans to proceed against Attorney General Jack P. F. Gremillion on a charge of perjury before the grand jury in connection with testimony about Louisiana Loan and Thrift Corp.

"As of now we are going forward," Gallinghouse told The States-Item today.

Gremillion and two others were acquitted this week of fraud and conspiracy charges in connection with the operation of the bankrupt LL&T. Also acquitted were state Rep. Salvador Anzelmo of New Orleans and Arkansas businessman Ernest Bartlett.

YESTERDAY Gallinghouse dismissed similar charges against Joseph Kavanaugh, Baton Rouge attorney who had been granted a separate trial in the case. Noting this week's acquittals, he said Kavanaugh's attachments to LL&T were less in number and importance than the other defendants.

Today the Metropolitan Crime Commission in New Orleans called on state officials and agencies to reopen the investigation of Gremillion and Anzelmo on several new levels.

Gallinghouse can be expected to proceed as swiftly as possible in bringing Gremillion to trial on the perjury indictment in an effort to avoid mixing it up with the upcoming political campaign as much as possible.

Gremillion is seeking re-election to the post he has held since 1956.

THE PERJURY indictment grew out of testimony that Gremillion gave before a federal grand jury in New Orleans some 10 months ago and is not connected with any testimony during the recent trial of the case.

Gremillion did not take the stand in the trial.

The perjury charges grew out of Gremillion's alleged testimony to a federal grand jury that he had no "economic interest" in LL&T and for claiming that a \$700 check he received from the firm was a political contribution.

During the trial, testimony indicated that Gremillion owned 10,000 shares of the bankrupt firm, that he had received a \$700 check from the company as a dividend payment and that he gave Bartlett his proxy in 1967 to vote his shares at a stockholders' meeting.

Meanwhile, the Metropolitan Crime

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Commission issued a formal statement from its board of directors and signed by its president C. Alvin Bertel Jr., and managing director Aaron N. Kohn. It was issued to Gov. John J. McKeithen, New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison, East Baton Rouge District Attorney Sargent Pitcher, Thomas L. Raggio, president of the Louisiana Bar Association, and the chairman of the State Board of Ethics for Elected Officials.

The statement read:

"ALTHOUGH NOT convicted for the federal charges, it was nevertheless clear from reported evidence that the chief law officer and one of the most influential legislators of our state did dominate decisions of LL&T and used their official positions to influence state government in a manner which caused many hundreds of persons to entrust their savings with the insolvent loan company and thereafter suffer a loss."

"Termination of the federal trial does not end state government responsibility for acting upon the evidence developed," the statement read. "We believe that the people of Louisiana should now address their demands for equity and justice to these questions and agencies."

The MCC called on the district attor-

neys of Orleans and East Baton Rouge Parishes to examine the basis for possible prosecution under state law for such crimes as public bribery, malfeasance and others.

"WHAT DO YOU intend to do about your responsibility in this matter?" the statement asked the DAs.

The MCC called on the Louisiana Board of Ethics for Elected Officials to reexamine an earlier complaint by the MCC regarding the connection of Gremillion to LL&T. It said the board's findings were then based only upon a sworn statement by Gremillion that he had never owned stock in LL&T. The MCC claimed this was in conflict with testimony in the federal court trial of Gremillion.

The Louisiana Bar Association was called upon to examine the records of both officials for possible violation of the code of ethics to determine if disbarment actions should be initiated.

THE MCC DIRECTED the bar association to investigate certain records in a Civil District Court case in Orleans Parish entitled Josken Corp. vs. Salvador Anzelmo, relating to the official's activities in behalf of LL&T.

Gov. McKeithen was asked to urge the officials and agencies called upon for action to submit to the requests. It asked for his executive leadership to help build confidence of the people in the state.