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Gremillion-LL&T Link Cited by Key Witness

By KERMIT TARLETON

and JAMES HEARTY

A key government witness testified today that she may have made a mistake in 1969 when she told a federal grand jury that no Louisiana Loan & Thrift Corp. stock certificates were issued in the name of Atty. Gen. Jack P.F. Gremillion.

Mrs. Janyce Coman Degan said, however, it was not possible she could be wrong today when she said certificates in the amount of 8,000 shares of nonvoting stock and 2,000 shares of voting stock were sent to Gremillion in Baton Rouge.

MRS. DEGAN, a former LL&T secretary, made these statements while under cross-examination by defense attorney F. Irvin Dymond during the perjury trial of Gremillion before a jury in the court of U.S. District Judge Fred J. Cassibry.

Gremillion is accused in a five-count indictment charging that he lied when he told a federal grand jury in 1969 that he never owned stock in the bankrupt firm, that he never received dividends from it, that he never signed a stock voting proxy and had no financial interest in the company.

Earlier today, Mrs. Degan told the court that some of the stock listed in LL&T records as being issued in the name of New Orleans attorney William A. Glennon was actually owned by Gremillion and by Orleans Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison.

TESTIMONY DURING a federal court trial last spring in which Gremillion, State Rep. Salvador Anzelmo and former LL&T board chairman Ernest A. Bartlett Jr. won acquittal on charges of fraud and conspiracy in the LL&T case, was that Garrison received stock in the company in return for his efforts to establish the firm in the New Orleans area.

Mrs. Degan said she first prepared a Turn to Page 14, Column 1

LL&T Link Cited

Continued from Front Page

certificate for 10,000 shares of non-voting stock in the name of Gremillion on orders from Bartlett. She said she did not recall seeing that certificate until it turned up during the government's investigation of the company, but she does recognize as her handwriting the word "void" written across the face of the certificate.

She said she could not recall when she voided that certificate. Earlier she had testified that the certificate was issued because she did not have the proper forms but when the forms became available she broke the stock down into voting and non-voting shares.

Mrs. Degan said when she issued the two certificates in Gremillion's name she forwarded them by registered or certified mail to Baton Rouge. UNDER QUESTIONING by Dymond she said the mail receipt which the government contends was for the two new certificates may have been for some other document sent to the attorney general. She said she could not be sure about that.

When asked about other stock records Mrs. Degan admitted there were some persons listed as stockholders who did not actually own stock in the firm, and she identified stock certificates written in their names.

She pointed out, however, that these certificates were still in the stock book and had not been issued.

Mrs. Degan also said there were no records in the LL&T books that indicated a notation was made on the back of the certificate showing Gremillion as owning 10,000 shares of non-voting stock which transferred this certificate to the name of his wife.