

Gremillion Still in Race: 'I Remain a Candidate'

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States-Item Bureau

BATON ROUGE — Atty. Gen. Jack P. F. Gremillion today declared he will remain in the race for a fifth term despite cries for his resignation following conviction of five counts of perjury by a federal court jury.

Gremillion told a press conference that he neither plans to resign from office nor withdraw from the Democratic primary.

Several of his opponents and gubernatorial candidates have called on Gremillion to resign.

He said he plans to appeal the perjury conviction which held he lied about his involvement in the Louisiana Loan and Thrift Corp. when he testified before a federal grand jury.

GREMILLION and two others were acquitted of conspiracy charges in the LL&T case.

"I shall not resign, because legally I am not required to do so," Gremillion told a packed session in the lobby of his suite of offices on the 22nd floor of the state capitol.

"Above all," he continued, "morally I am not required to do so. To resign

would be to admit that I have done something wrong.

"I qualified for attorney general on Aug. 6 and I will remain a candidate for attorney general.

"I WILL CONTINUE to seek re-election as I am entitled to do," he said. "The people of Louisiana have elected me attorney general four times and I am again going to take my case to them."

Gremillion said he was acquitted by one jury in the LL&T case, but found guilty in the second case, which he said was based upon the same facts.

"The law provides that I am innocent until the U.S. Supreme Court decides to the contrary," he said of his planned appeal of the verdict rendered last Saturday.

"I HAVE THE inalienable right to appeal the decision of the jury in New Orleans," he said. "Certainly, that

right should be given to the attorney general of a state just as it is to those persons who would physically attempt to destroy the courts of our land such as they did in Chicago, Los Angeles and other cities in the past."

Gremillion noted that he had appeared voluntarily before the federal grand jury prior to the return of indictments alleging conspiracy to defraud investors in the now defunct loan company.

He said he would repeat the same testimony if he were to go before another federal grand jury, for to do otherwise would be to commit perjury.

He said it is his personal belief that he is obligated to continue his term in office "for I am not guilty of perjury."

"My four terms as attorney general have been stormy ones," he said. "As you know, there is now a clamor for Jack Gremillion's hide, but this shall not deter me, for there has been a clamor for my hide since the day I was first elected."