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## Gremillion Pardon Possible--Governor

Gov. John J. McKeithen said yesterday he is not considering a pardon for state Atty. Gen. Jack P.F. Gremillion at this time but will consider it if the matter is presented to him.

The governor's comments about Gremillion, convicted in federal court last week on perjury charges growing out of the Louisiana Loan and Thrift case, came at a press conference at International House.

"I don't know exactly how a pardon could be presented to me," McKeithen said. "Before I can pardon anyone I have to have a recommendation from the Pardon Board. Mr. Gremillion is a member of the Pardon Board.

"WHEN IT IS presented to me, I will consider it. But I don't think consideration of a

pardon is in order at this time because he is under appeal."

A governor's pardon would have no effect on the federal case but would restore the attorney general's civil rights in the state.

In Baton Rouge yesterday, Gremillion rejected appeals by some of his political opponents and others that he resign, saying "I am not guilty of anything until the Supreme Court lays this thing to rest."

"My personal feeling is that I am obligated to continue my term in office, for I am not guilty of perjury," said Gremillion, who has been attorney general since 1956. He said he spoke with McKeithen by telephone, and the governor had expressed "sorrow" at his conviction, which Gremillion presumably intends to appeal as far as the Supreme Court

if necessary.

ASKED IF he would consider endorsing Gremillion for re-election, the governor said, "I am not endorsing anyone for election or re-election."

On other matters, McKeithen said he feels it "appropriate" that the state Commission on Governmental Ethics is investigating C. H. "Sammy" Downs' connections with a voting machine company. The firm paid Downs \$200,000 for services rendered while Downs, now state Commissioner of Public Works, was not on the public payroll.

McKeithen said he thinks H. D. Ruffin, head of the Department of Occupational Standards, acted properly in seeking a ruling from the Ethics Commission on whether he should write a book and sell it. Ruffin has said the com-

mission gave him the go-ahead for the book, a manual for persons taking examinations for real estate and brokers licenses.

RUFFIN'S department has jurisdiction over real estate.

"I think he followed the proper course," said McKeithen. "If he is using his office to promote it (the book) or the state is paying any money on it, that is improper.

"But if we are going to prevent him from writing a book and getting help in writing it, we got to run about half of LSU off to start with, because they are writing textbooks all the time and putting them on the market."