

Pitcher Rejects Petition To Remove Gremillion

BATON ROUGE (AP) — Dist. Atty. Sargent Pitcher says he won't take any action against Atty. Gen. Jack Gremillion until all appeals to his perjury conviction have been exhausted, despite a petition calling for the attorney general's removal.

"I've made it clear I don't consider a conviction final until all appeals have been completed," Pitcher said yesterday, just hours after he was presented with the petition.

The petition, listing 38 signatures, was filed with the district attorney by Ivan Imes of Baton Rouge. Imes said the persons who signed the petition are residents of East Baton Rouge Parish.

The petition calls on Pitcher to act under a provision of the

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Imes said requires a district attorney to seek the removal from office of anyone convicted of a felony, provided at least 25 persons petition him to do so.

"This is a matter of grave concern, because it directly reflects on public morality in Louisiana," Imes said in a letter to Pitcher which was attached to the petition. The letter urged "rapid execution" of the matter.

Gremillion was convicted Sept. 25 of perjury in testimony he gave to a federal grand jury in the Louisiana Loan & Thrift Corp. case.

The attorney general later refused to resign and said he would continue to seek reelection this fall.