

By BILL LYNCH  
and BILL RAINEY

Jackie and Johnny were team-

mates

Were together on every score

Then the LL&T came between  
them

They could be good friends no  
more

Would they shoot it out

At the Capitol door?

It looked for awhile today that a political romance gone sour—between Happy Jack (Atty. Gen. Jack P. F. Gremillion) and Big Bad John (Gov. John J. McKeithen) would come to a violent end on the steps of the state Capitol in Baton Rouge.

Well, it didn't really look that way if you thought about it but Happy Jack was playing it for all it was worth.

**EVEN THOUGH** the violence never occurred, it provided one of the memorable scenes in Louisiana's political history—a history filled with memorable scenes.

Happy Jack was made a mite unhappy by some remarks Big Bad John made Monday way out west in Shreveport. John said he was embarrassed by Happy Jack and didn't know "of anything else to do but shoot him."

This morning Happy Jack challenged Big Bad John and said he wouldn't even bring along his shooting iron. He said John could just meet him on the steps of the 34-story Capitol and fire away.

Jack showed up.

"**HERE I AM, Big John Shoot away!**"

John — as everybody had expected — stayed away. Said he really didn't mean what he'd said about his former corral mate.

"I didn't think he was going to show up in the first place," Happy Jack told a crowd that had left nearby saloons for the high noon showdown. Happy Jack said he knew Big Bad John wouldn't show because "he's a first class coward."

"He always runs out on a fight."

**THERE'S NO WAY** to get serious about the governor and attorney general shooting it out, but there's no way

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to carry on a story in this vein either, so back to the straight of it.

In a speech to the Louisiana Teachers Association Monday McKeithen said Gremillion's conviction of perjury in connection with the operations of the bankrupt Louisiana Loan and Thrift Corp. embarrassed him and that he didn't know "of anything else to do but shoot him."

It was then that Gremillion said he would be on the Capitol steps at noon today and that McKeithen could shoot him.

**GREMILLION WAS** acquitted of any wrongdoing in connection with LL&T but convicted of perjury in connection with his testimony before a federal grand jury. He has appealed the conviction.

In one of the more memorable responses to McKeithen's remarks, Gremillion called them dastardly.

"They are typical of your character which is one of double cross, double talk and complete hypocrisy," Gremillion declared.

"Are you embarrassed about your appointees who have come under suspicion and fire and for whom you are directly responsible?" Gremillion asked.

"**ARE YOU GOING** to shoot them, too?"

"Are you going to shoot the convicts on death row at Angola because they continue to exhaust their legal remedies to stay alive?"

Gremillion said, "I was a real nice guy when I catered to your wishes in order to help you."

He said he made trips throughout the country with McKeithen to show harmony between his office and the governor.

Gremillion blamed his current legal difficulties on the governor, charging he had withdrawn financial and personal support from the attorney general in the prosecution of labor-management law violations in the Baton Rouge area.

**HE SAID THAT** McKeithen's comments were prejudicial to him and his family and were an attempt to deny him his constitutional rights.

"Your career," he retorted, "has been one of triumph at the expense of others."

"Since you wish to shoot me I will be on the Capitol steps at noon Wednesday . . . I will be unarmed, for I never carry a gun.

"But I am not afraid of you and I urge you to be present when I make myself available in order that you may carry out your threat," he concluded in a message delivered to McKeithen.

"I'm awfully sorry he feels that I slandered him," McKeithen said. "I didn't attempt to."

"I haven't suggested anyone shoot Mr. Gremillion at all. It looks like he blamed his defeat on me."

McKeithen said he had no role in the campaign in which Gremillion ran fourth in seeking a fifth successive term in office.

"He defeated himself on his own," McKeithen said.

He said his reference to shooting Gremillion was what "some would have" since all his legal remedies were exhausted.



AP WIRE  
Gremillion dares McKeithen  
to shoot him on Capitol steps