

Officials Sworn In
EDWARDS ASKS DEDICATION

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By BILL LYNCH

States-Item Bureau

BATON ROUGE — Gov. Edwin Edwards, taking office as Louisiana's chief executive today, called on all segments of society to blend their goals to bring "to our state a sense of purpose and dedication unparalleled in our time."

Edwards spoke from the steps of the state Capitol, where he and 10 other elected state officials earlier took the oath of office beginning a new administration.

Edwards was sworn in by his brother, Noland, while U.S. Sen. Allen J. Ellender administered the oath to Lt. Gov. James F. Fitzmorris Jr.

Louisiana Chief Justice E. Howard McCaleb gave the oath to Secretary of State Wade O. Martin Jr., Atty. Gen.

William J. Guste, Treasurer Mary Evelyn Parker, Comptroller Roy Theriot, Education Supt. Louis Michot, Register of State Lands Ellen Bryan Moore, Agriculture Commissioner Dave L. Pearce, Commissioner of Insurance

on the speakers' stand with Edwards, along with three former governors — Jimmie Davis, Robert Kennon and Sam Jones—and their wives.

Visiting dignitaries included Gov. and Mrs. William Waller of Mississip-

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10 Cents

Sherman Bernard and Custodian of Voting Machines Douglas Fowler.

The new regime took over amid a display of pomp and splendor, religious rites, and a Cajun jubilee including French cooking and a ball tonight to cap off the day's ceremonies.

Gov. and Mrs. John McKeithen were

pi, Mrs. Jimmy Carter, wife of Georgia's governor, and Gen. and Mrs. Taylor Hardin, representatives of Alabama Gov. George Wallace.

Louisiana's congressional delegation was also present.

Master of Ceremonies Joe Delpit, a black Baton Rouge councilman, said

the inauguration marks a "new beginning and calls for all of us to close ranks and put Louisiana first.

"The social revolution which has swept this country has had profound effects on Louisiana," Delpit said. "Gov. McKeithen weathered his share of the storms. The ground where he walked bears deep imprints. Gov. Edwards will want to walk new ground."

Fitzmorris, in his brief remarks, urged citizens in the state to join in an effort to "make Louisiana what we hope it to be."

He said newly elected officials "ask only that you support and take pride in being a citizen of Louisiana."

Inaugural officials estimated 60,000 to 70,000 persons were present for the ceremonies, although most earlier esti-

mates had put the crowd size far below that.

The officials said that the higher estimate represented a consensus of law enforcement officials.

All of the elected officials held open houses in their new offices before they settled down to bringing the changes to Louisiana government that the voters in the last election indicated they want.

The 44-year-old Edwards resigned from his post as congressman from the Seventh Congressional District to succeed Gov. John J. McKeithen as the head of state.

McKeithen set a modern precedent in serving two successive terms in the mansion, permitted by a change in the law.

In his address to the throngs gath-

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