

'Sunshine' Vetoed As State Song Of Louisiana

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP)—A bill making the country music ballad "You Are My Sunshine" the state's official song was vetoed Thursday by Gov. John McKeithen as soon as he could lay hands on it.

The governor is an admirer of country songs and not bashful about singing them, in a rusty baritone, under proper conditions. But he didn't think "You Are My Sunshine" was quite right for Louisiana.

The ballad, a wail of forlorn love, is an evergreen in the hillbilly repertoire. It was written by 2-term governor Jimmie H. Davis of Baton Rouge—an entertainer when he isn't politicking. The lyrics do not mention Louisiana.

Gov. McKeithen, who succeeded Davis in the governor's mansion, softened his veto by substituting a proclamation that July 17-23 will be "You Are My Sunshine" week.

"I respectfully suggest that the legislature consider appointing a small committee to be chaired by former Gov. Davis to either compose or select an appropriate song to be submitted to the legislature for approval as the official state song of Louisiana," he added.

Until that day, the state's official tune remains "Song of Louisiana," adopted by the 1932 legislature and practically unheard of since.