

Ex-governor of Louisiana dies at age 80

LAKE CHARLES, La. (UPI) — Sam Jones, who served as Louisiana governor for one term in the 1940s, died Tuesday at a nursing home. He was 80.

Jones, who had been in poor health three years, lapsed into critical condition Tuesday. He was hospitalized three weeks last October due to hardening of the arteries, but there was no immediate word on the nature of his latest illness.

Services were pending Tuesday night.

Jones, whose term as governor began in 1940, lost a bid for re-election in 1944. The loss was attributed partly to his repeated attempts to restrict the export of natural gas from the state.

In an interview a few months before his death, Jones said Louisiana still was losing out on exploitation of its natural resources.

"I think we're in a heck of a mess," he said. "We should provide a tax for natural gas and offshore oil in Louisiana limits."

Gov. Edwin Edwards said Jones' contributions in the field of energy were important.

"He was one of the earliest voices urging the conservation of natural gas and trying to slow down the exportation of it," Edwards said. "I wish we had listened to him sooner."