

McKeithen Scores Louisiana Victory

NEW ORLEANS, (AP)—John J. McKeithen, a country lawyer trained in politics by the late Gov. Earl Long, won an upset victory Saturday night in Louisiana's Democratic runoff for governor.

It was a bitter pill for DeLesseps S. Morrison, the former Kennedy administration diplomat who resigned as ambassador to the Organization of American States to make his third straight losing governor's race.

With 2,187 of the 2,219 precincts reported, McKeithen had 484,179 votes compared to 437,994 for Morrison.

MRS. BLANCHE LONG, widow of the governor and state campaign manager for McKeithen, predicted an ultimate victory margin of 10,000 to 20,000 votes.

A calm matronly figure in the pandemonium of McKeithen

headquarters at a midtown hotel here, she said McKeithen "will make an Earl Long-type governor because he believes in the same philosophy."

"Ole Earl," who won the governor's chair three times and called himself the Last of the Red Hot Papas in politics, prided himself on being a "poor man's governor."

THE TWO candidates were roughly similar in their approach to many problems raised

in the campaign. Both were segregationists, but McKeithen hammered on the racial issue.

The key was New Orleans, where Morrison figured to run strong. However, McKeithen figured he was a winner if he could come out of the city with 50,000 votes. He got 53,000.

Democratic nomination means election. The general election in March has been a formality in the governor's race since Reconstruction.