'COONASS' OR 'CAJUN'? 1~~l~~~-2~own the necks of the woods-
. CD}l&:mA If-f, men.
A 'D· t. , P t t t "I don't think it's a funny word, a jocular word, a kidding word," Domengeaux said.

"People who are friends will continue to use the word 'coonass' in a lighthearted way," the governor said, "and people who use the term in an insulting way had better be ready to get into trouble — which is as it has laways been."

"I deeply regret that the governor of Louisiana has used the wood "coonass" in public and private," Domengeaux said.

"I think Mr. Domengeaux is creating a controversy where none ought to exist," Edwards replied. The governor refers to himself as a "coonass" and said "coonass power" helped get him elected.

Domengeaux said the word is "disgusting" and derives from the French word "coonass," a term for a prostitute without medical papers.

Edwards said it was his understanding the term was first applied to Tennessee volunteers under Andrew Jackson in the Battle of New Orleans because of their caps of coon-skin with the tails trailing down the necks of the woods-men.

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