Creationism ‘hot’ subject

By JOAN I. DUFFY
BATON ROUGE, La. (UPI) — Gov. Dave Treen, beginning his review of laws approved by the 1981 Louisiana Legislature, promised Tuesday to scratch items from overweight state budgets and face within a week the thorny issue of Biblical creation.

Treen has seven more days to decide if he will sign a proposed law that would require teachers discussing the theory of evolution in classrooms also to teach the Biblical story of creation.

“Treen said it was doubtful a legislative plan to cut $32 million in occupational license taxes paid by nearly all small businesses in the state could become law.

“There is a lot to be said for both sides,” Treen said at a news conference the day after the Legislature gaveled to a yelling, screaming halt at midnight Monday.

“It’s a difficult one and I haven’t decided (whether to sign the bill into law). I honestly haven’t decided.”

Louisiana became the second state in the nation this year to approve the teaching of “scientific creationism” — a fundamentalist belief that man was placed on earth in his present biological form by a supreme being.

A similar law in Arkansas was being challenged in court as an unconstitutional attempt to bring religious instruction into public schools.

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Among the major successes, Treen listed a construction program he said lacked any pork barrel, special interest spend-