Interest Citied in Plant to ‘Blast Freeze’ Crawfish

700,000 Tails Daily Seen Needed for Project

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — A state representative said Tuesday an out-of-state firm showed interest in a Louisiana plant that would “blast freeze” 10,000 pounds of crawfish tails a day.

Rep. Burt Angelle, St. Martinville, told the Louisiana Crawfish Promotion Association here Tuesday an out-of-state firm wanted to know if that many crawfish could be supplied for the New Orleans–located plant. He said the meat would have to be removed from the shells.

Industry spokesmen estimated that would be about 700,000 crawfish tails a day.

In a move aimed at improving crawfish production capacity, the association headed by Angelle went on record urging Louisiana congressmen and the U.S. Congress to speeding up a program to boost the amount of water pumped into the Atchafalaya Basin from the Mississippi River.

One industry spokesman said that unless this is done the state cannot supply either fish or crawfish to supply growing demand.

SPACE IS ASKED

Ray Pellerin, Breaux Bridge, vice-president of the Louisiana crawfish festival association, told the group a trailer firm had asked 500-trailer space for crawfish at next April’s festival.

He said this was one of the results of recent worldwide publicity about Louisiana’s crawfish industry.

And Aubrey Heumann, Breaux Bridge, said success of the crawfish cookout at the Louisiana governor’s mansion spurred plans for a similar cookout at the White House and in various state capitols.

He said the group was seeking to clear the project with President Johnson.

The association also discussed the possibility of a tax, similar to that supporting the yam industry, to help promote crawfish.

Angelle said Gov. John McKeithen had promised to seek $50,000 for use in crawfish research projects at the University of Southwestern Louisiana and Louisiana State University.

Several committees were named to work on crawfish promotion projects.

The committees included:

- Membership – Mulate Guilfry, Breaux Bridge; J. E. Saxton, Rosedale.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Public relations – Aubrey Heumann, Breaux Bridge.

Research development on processing and marketing – Pat Huval, Henderson, Willie Lester, and Willie Landry, both Lafayette.