McKeithen Boosts Crawfish

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BATON ROUGE Crawfish, as a delicacy and as an industry, got a big boost here yesterday when about 300 guests joined Gov. and Mrs. John McKeithen and family and members of the Breaux Bridge Crawfish Festival Association to a cookout at the executive mansion.

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Members of the association prepared and served about a ton of crawfish to promote the crawfish industry in Louisiana.

Breaux Bridge residents were delighted when McKeithen sat down to enjoy a plate of crawfish — etouffee, pattie, salad, stuffed and something new called 'boulot' — shaped like a tiny meat ball.

His two young daughters sat with him and enjoyed some of the recrivoise.

Mrs. McKeithen and the other children were eating their crawfish at various parts of the porches and lawns of the mansion. "Delicious" was a word heard often from members of the first family.

The festivities got underway at 5 p.m., with guests being welcomed to the mansion by Miss Betty Broussard, crawfish queen, Rep. Burton Angelle, Carl Simon, president of the Breaux Bridge Crawfish Festival Association, and contestants for this year's crawfish queen, who will be named next year.

State officials, legislators, guests milled around the sitting rooms of the mansion, enjoying hors d'oeuvres, all of crawfish, served from a table centered with a giant crawfish, made of papier mache.

Before serving of the dinner, Father George Braquet, pastor of St. Bernard Church, Breaux Bridge, invoked a blessing on the crawfish industry.

Leon Breaux, the self-proclaimed eternal crawfish king, presented a plaque to McKeithen, making the governor an "honorary cajun."

The crowd then went through the buffet line to be served the crawfish dinner, prepared in Baton Rouge but cooked at the mansion by a group of ladies from Breaux Bridge, the "Crawfish Capital of the World."

Members of the association invited guests to Breaux Bridge April 23-24 when an "abbreviated version" of the Crawfish Festival is scheduled, and will include crowing of the new queen, selection of the world (Continued On Page 2, Col. 6).

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champion crawfish eater, and fais do do. The big festival is held every other year, with the abbreviated version sandwiched in every other year.

Legislators around the halls and the governor were heard expressing support for a $450,000 appropriation being pushed by Senators Garland Bonin and Sam Broussard, and Rep. Angelle, to conduct a study of the crawfish and find how the industry can be extended.

Sen. Dudley DeBlanc, Abbeville, said he is in favor of the appropriation, but said that $100,000 is needed to do the job adequately.