ANGOLA (AP) — Elmo Patrick Sonnier, who may be electrocuted Thursday for a lovers' lane rape and double murder, "seemed relaxed" during a Death House visit with the Catholic nun who serves as his spiritual adviser, the warden of Louisiana's state penitentiary said Monday.

Sonnier, 35, presumably has exhausted all court appeals and the State Pardon Board, in a 4-1 vote Saturday, refused to pardon him. That apparently left Gov. Edwin Edwards as Sonnier's sole hope for survival.

The governor has said he will not stop pending executions unless innocence can be proven.

Sonnier's lawyer, Millard Farmer of Team Defense in Atlanta, could not be reached Monday to learn what, if any, new strategies are planned.

Sonnier and his younger brother, Edward, were convicted of raping Loretta Borque, 18, and then murdering her and her high school sweetheart, David LeBlanc, 16, in an Iberia Parish sugarcane field on Nov. 5, 1977.

Edward Sonnier, now 27, originally was sentenced to die, too, but his sentence later was reduced to life imprisonment.

Preparations for Elmo Sonnier's execution proceeded.

Warden Ross Maggio said Sonnier was transferred from Death Row to the Louisiana State Penitentiary's Death House on Friday.

“He's had attorneys in there talking with him as recently as this morning,” Maggio said Monday afternoon.

The warden said he spent just a short time with Sonnier, who was consulting with Sister Helen Prejean, the New Orleans nun who, as spiritual adviser, probably will spend the last hours with Sonnier.

“He was visiting with his spiritual adviser and I spoke only a couple of words to him. He seemed relaxed at the time that I talked with him,” Maggio said.

Meg Curtis, a spokeswoman for Edwards, said the governor was not in his Baton Rouge office Monday, but had not yet received a request that he commute Sonnier's execution.

A state Department of Corrections spokeswoman said three reporters were chosen Monday to be among the witnesses when Sonnier if becomes the third man since December to die in Louisiana's electric chair.


Ms. Norris said six to eight other witnesses would be chosen Tuesday from a list that includes the victims' fathers — Godfrey Borque of New Iberia and Lloyd LeBlanc of St. Martinville.