ANGOLA — With last-ditch appeals denied by the U.S. Supreme Court and by Gov. Treen, condemned murderer Johnny Taylor Jr. awaited execution in the early morning hours Wednesday.

Taylor was scheduled to become the second man in three months to die in Louisiana's electric chair.

"After careful, prayerful consideration, I have decided not to intervene in the judicial process," Treen said through a spokesman at about 11 p.m. after he met with attorneys for Taylor for about an hour.

Earlier in the day the U.S. Supreme Court in a 6-2 vote refused to block the execution of the 30-year-old father of six, who was convicted in the 1980 stabbing death of a Kenner man.

The Supreme Court action marked Taylor's third rejection by a court in two days. On Monday, the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals and a federal district judge had rejected pleas from Taylor's new attorney, Frank Sloan, that the defense lawyer at the 1980 trial was...