

Edwin W. Edwards Interview

You'd never know that the former governor of Louisiana occupies a room in this office building tucked away on Jamestown road near Interstate 10 in Baton Rouge. The sign on the front says "Dawson Engineers," and the receptionist answering the phone merely repeats four digits of the number. No names. No evidence on the outside of Edwin W. Edwards on the inside - former two-term governor of Louisiana, and rumors gaining momentum daily that's he's about to tilt with incumbent Charles "Buddy" Roemer in the next gubernatorial election.

I arrive promptly at 2:00 in the afternoon, the time we had set for my interview. I wait an hour. It's quiet in the foyer. But there's a buzz, a hum. People stride in and out. He had readily said yes to the interview. I had asked Camille Gravel, a friend of his to recommend me, although a confidant of Edwards said I could have gotten the interview on my own. I didn't want to take a chance. In my letter to Edwards asking for the interview I had said, "The last time I spoke with you I was seated across a long table in a meeting shortly before the execution of Elmo Patrick Sonnier. We both left that table and traveled down paths which duty and vocation dictated - you to allow the execution 'under the law' to proceed, I to wait out the final hours with the condemned man."