PARTY LOYALTY CITED BY TRICE

GOP Airs Reason for DA Race Exit

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Republican Phil Trice told The Times-Picayune Tuesday night that he withdrew from the race for the post of Orleans Parish district attorney at the request of local Republican leaders "on the basis of party loyalty."

It was learned earlier that Trice had decided to withdraw his candidacy against incumbent District Attorney Jim Garrison, who is seeking reelection. Garrison now has no opposition.

The text of Trice's statement follows:

"Local Republican leaders have asked me, on the basis of party loyalty, to withdraw from the race for district attorney.

"I could not agree to the validity of the reasons advanced by them, except that, through no fault of theirs or mine, a situation has arisen in which my remaining in the race could only fragment the effort of our small party.

"Although a Republican since 1964, I was not active in party work, and did not feel that the party owed me anything. While I believed that my candidacy would benefit the party, I was grateful to these same people during the months they have sought to assist me and I respect their opinions, so when they based their request on what they thought to be the best interests of the Republican Party, I had no alternative, even though I do not intend to again seek public office.

"On Feb. 18, I bowed to their appeal, and withdrew from the race. Having done so only in the hope of aiding the party, I do not intend to say anything that might detract from that.

"I thank the many people who offered me their support."