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**Baptiste
Replaced
By Negro**

Mayor Victor H. Schiro today appointed a Negro aide to replace another Negro he had fired.

The mayor announced at an afternoon news conference that he has selected Bernel Sanders, a 36-year-old insurance company agent, to replace Philip M. Baptiste, whom he dismissed yesterday.

Sanders, a graduate of Booker T. Washington High School and Loyola University, is an agent for an insurance company and currently is working on his master's degree at Dillard.

Sanders lives at 1808 St. Maurice st. and has a son.

At one time Sanders was associated with the state Welfare Department.

An Air Force veteran who saw service in Germany, Sanders expressed excitement over his new appointment.

Ousted Aide Raps Schiro for 'Racism'

Dismissed mayor's aide Philip M. Baptiste today accused Mayor Victor H. Schiro of racism and yielding to political pressure from the white community.

"You don't tell a man you

See AIDE—Page 4

Aide--

Continued from Front Page

want his resignation and expect it the same day," Baptiste said, scoring Schiro's action for what he described as "racist" intentions and "political pressure from the white community."

Baptiste, a Negro, was fired from his position as a mayor's aide yesterday as a result of his appearance as a member of Schiro's staff at a July 30 testimonial dinner honoring Harry Connick, a candidate for district attorney. At that time, Baptiste presented a certificate of merit from the city to Connick.

SCHIRO SAID yesterday that Baptiste "took this action without my knowledge and approval. By so doing, the impression was created that I had injected myself into the district attorney's race."

However, Baptiste said in a press conference this morning that he was not aware of any political implications of the testimonial, given by the Concerned Citizens Against Crime Committee.

He said he was contacted by state Rep. Ernest N. Morial, standing chairman of the committee, who asked him to present a citation at the event honoring Connick.

Baptiste said the citations are "a dime a dozen" and can be obtained from the mayor's office merely by filling out a white application card requesting one. The requests are routinely handled by the secretary of Mayor Schiro's executive assistant Dennis Lacey, he continued.

THE CITATIONS come from the printers with the mayor's name already on them, he added.

The ousted aide said he thinks Schiro, who asked Baptiste to resign Thursday afternoon or face dismissal, could have made a statement disavowing his authorization of the presentation, instead of firing him.

He accused Schiro of insincerity "in trying to bridge the gap" between the mayor's office and the black community.

"It has not always been a comfortable situation sitting in the mayor's office," Baptiste said, adding that Schiro had told him he had been "a

thorn in his side" since the day he was appointed, May 8, 1968.

IN A FORMAL letter of resignation prepared yesterday, Baptiste said he "merely made the presentation as per a request from a group of citizens who in their estimation felt Mr. Connick had done a good job in legal representation. He added that Connick was being honored upon his retirement and in tribute to his career as an assistant U.S. attorney.

"I shall always cherish the period of my employment in your office simply because of the wealth of gratification I had in relieving human suffering and giving that ray of hope to the black community that achievement is possible in this great City of New Orleans beginning with the seat of government," his resignation concluded.