

Alcock Withdraws From Court Race

James L. Alcock has withdrawn from the race against Circuit District Court Judge Jerome Winsberg.

Alcock was Judge Winsberg's lone opponent in the Democratic primary. His withdrawal leaves Winsberg unopposed in the Aug. 13 Democratic primary.

Judge Winsberg was one of three criminal court judges involved in tapes made by the federal government in 1979 at a time when Pershing Gervais was acting as an informer for the government. U.S. Atty. Gerald Gallinhouse has made the tapes available to local officials, stating that no federal crime has been committed but suggesting that some action by local officials might be appropriate.

To date, no action has been taken.

Alcock was defeated by Winsberg in the 1971 election by some 5,000 votes for the judgeship. Alcock, who had been first assistant district attorney to Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison, was appointed to the judgeship but lost out in the election to Winsberg.

It has long been rumored by political circles here that Garrison might ask Alcock, who had returned to the DA's office after suing to Winsberg, to withdraw in exchange for the support of Councilman Eddie Shaw in Garrison's race for the Louisiana Supreme Court Sept. 12, 1980. Alcock's former law partner and a close associate.

Alcock was reported at a staff meeting at the DA's office and could not be reached for comment. Winsberg, Shaw and Garrison were also unavailable for comment.

A spokesman for the Democratic Executive Committee said that Alcock has officially filed his withdrawal papers and is now out of the race against Winsberg.