

*F.P.*

## CUBAN GIVEN TOLEDANO VOW

### Says He'd Seek Help to Make Land Free

Republican mayoral candidate Ben C. Toledano promised a Cuban gathering here Thursday night that if elected he intends to "do everything possible to influence the Republican administration in Washington so that someday Cuba will be free again."

His brief address was made in the Spanish Room of International House, 607 Gravier, where a group of Cuban people now living in the New Orleans area were invited by the local GOP as a gesture of appreciation for their work for the party.

Speaking in Spanish, the candidate also said that, as mayor, he would improve cultural and business relations with Latin American countries and urged those who were not already registered party members to join the GOP.

The gathering, conducted more as a social session than a political function, had a two-fold purpose—first, to pay tribute to those Cuban people here who have worked for the GOP (primary during the 1968 election); then to solicit their future support.

Joe S. Sheldon Jr., chairman of the GOP Political Action Council for Orleans Parish, acted as master of ceremonies for the informal function. And he, like Toledano and others who spoke, urged those there to actively participate in local party affairs.

A "Declaration of Principles of the Republican Party of Louisiana" was distributed among those attending. "I defy anyone here to find a statement of principles by the Democratic party," Sheldon said.

Dr. Louis Balert, a local physician, who came to New Orleans in 1961 after leaving Fidel Castro's Cuba, said that "it is time for us Cuban refugees to stand for something . . . to help Uncle Sam."

Offering Toledano his support, Dr. Balert asserted, "We are proud to be able in the future to fight for this country of ours."

Prof. Agustin Guitart, who taught physics at the University of Havana before coming to the United States, told the group in Spanish that with the Republican party there is hope that they may some day be able to return to a free Cuba.

Attorney David C. Treen, a local Republican leader who was defeated in his bid for Louisiana's Second District congressional seat in 1968, said that although being a Republican can sometime be lonely, "even if it is lonely, it is a sign you stand for freedom."

Assuring his listeners that the GOP here was growing, Treen said that the differences between the Democratic Party and the Republican Party is that "the Democratic Party is committed to bring as much power to the central government as possible," while "Republicans are for only that much power that is absolutely necessary." The Democrats' way could lead to dictatorship, he said.

The GOP candidate for district attorney, Philip Trice, said that while there is very little good that could be said for Castro, "he has caused us to receive the best of Cuba, and the best of Cuba is very good indeed."

Certificates expressing the GOP's gratitude for their efforts toward the election of President Richard M. Nixon and Vice President Spiro Agnew were awarded to four persons there—Carlos De La Veza, Carlos Quiroga, Charles Bringuier and Arturo Finlay.