

Hand

## Alford drops from DA race; five remain

By RAY LINCOLN

The six-man field in the race for District Attorney of Orleans Parish is down to five today with the withdrawal of William R. Alford Jr.

Alford, a former assistant to incumbent DA Jim Garrison, said Garrison's acquittal in the pinball bribery trial last week makes him "real tough to beat" and added: "I don't think I can do it."

He said he "started too late" to make a strong race against the DA, especially in view of the outcome of the trial.

"I do think he can be beat," Alford said of Garrison, but offered the opinion that only George Reese has a good chance of doing it. He said he believes Reese could defeat Garrison in a runoff but that Harry Connick could not.

Alford said he will support

one of the candidates but hasn't made up his mind yet which one.

The withdrawal leaves four challengers to Garrison: Reese, Connick, Denis A. Barry and Ross T. Scaccia.

Meanwhile, Reese was aiming most of his fire at Garrison last night in an address to the Minorities for Social Change at the Wesley Methodist Church, 2517 Jackson Ave.

"Jim Garrison's been tied up too long fighting the feder-

al government," he said, "and not using his office to protect you people from the real criminals on the street.

"We haven't had an armed robbery on Jackson Avenue by the federal government since I don't know when," Reese said.

"When I'm elected district attorney, I'm going to enforce the law whether it's an average criminal or the governor," he declared.