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SPEECH REPORT CONTAINS ERROR

T.P.
7/15/77
Dowling Statement on
Oser Clarified

A statement attributed to John P. Dowling, candidate for Criminal District Court, was incorrectly reported in Tuesday's edition of The Times-Picayune.

Dowling was quoted as saying that his election opponent, Criminal District Court Judge Alvin V. Oser, was suspended from law practice in October, 1964, for being "a delinquent debtor of a disreputable bail bondsman."

What Dowling said, however, was that Oser was found to be a "delinquent debtor of a disreputable bail bondsman" in September, 1965, while he was serving as senior assistant district attorney.

Dowling also said that Oser was suspended in October, 1964. The text of Dowling's speech in regard to this follows:

"My opponent has not seen fit to inform the voters of this community that he was guilty of such gross misconduct as a lawyer that the Supreme Court of Louisiana took away his license to practice law during the entire month of October, 1964. The document speaks for itself and shows that the Louisiana State Bar Association, the Louisiana Supreme Court and my opponent were all in agreement that he had been guilty of serious professional misconduct.

"I suggest that the voters are entitled to know the exact nature of his professional misconduct as it appears in the Findings of Facts of the Committee on Ethics of the Louisiana State Bar Association.

"It is a matter of law, R. S. 16:71, that only a licensed lawyer can serve as an assistant district attorney. My opponent was not a licensed lawyer during October, 1964, yet he received his regular pay from the City of New Orleans during that entire month."