

Ross Scaccia States Issues In DA's Race

Ross T. Scaccia, who served as an assistant district attorney from 1963 to 1967, has announced he is seeking the office of Orleans Parish district attorney in the Nov. 8 Democratic primary.

Scaccia also was an assistant U.S. attorney in 1967 and has been a practicing criminal lawyer since that time. He maintained his criminal law practice before joining the DA's office in 1963.

THE 34-YEAR-OLD lawyer is a graduate of Tulane University and the Tulane School of Law.



ROSS T. SCACCIA

He is a member of the American, Louisiana and New Orleans Bar associations.

The DA campaign's general issues, said Scaccia, are:

—“The discreet and proper use of granted power. The office of district attorney, by its nature, has enormous power; the district attorney has the means to indict and cause to be arrested any person where it is alleged that a crime has been committed within the jurisdiction of the Parish of Orleans. The wise use of power and the integrity to control its abuse are fundamental.

—“**THE POTENTIAL** breakdown of the separation of power. One of the basic doctrines in the American system of government is the balance of power that exists between the executive, legislative and judicial branches of the government. The potential influence on the judiciary and other branches of government by the district attorney is a danger to the basic requirement of the impartial administration of justice. When one branch of government controls and is immune from criticism because of fear or laxity, the system of checks and balances is destroyed and the development is to absolute control.

—“A more direct participation by the district attorney in the duties of the office.

—“**GREATER** concentration of efforts to stem the growth of gambling operations that today represent the greatest profit to what is presently referred to as organized crime.

—“The development of a program designed to better handle the problem of narcotic addiction with a positive view to treatment. Special attention should be given to addicts who

will submit to treatment. The expansion of the Methadone program, at this time, is clearly indicated.

—“The discouragement of the use of written police reports which are based on hearsay as the only basis for prosecution and sentence, and the encouragement of hearing witnesses in connection with the sentencing of persons convicted.

—“**PARTICIPATION** in a more active way in the recently developed Release on Recognition program and the encouragement of said program.

—“Discontinuance of the present policy of partiality between the grand jury and the district attorney's office, and the innovation of new methods to insure the independence of that body from the district attorney's office. The grand jury should not be an arm of the district attorney's office, but an independent body whose duty is to find probable cause in criminal matters. The district attorney should be the legal adviser to the grand jury only.

—“**THE ADOPTION** of a firm policy of only indicting or charging persons where prosecution is clearly indicated and is intended to be processed through the trial stage.

—“Better communication between district attorney and police before arrest in complicated cases; an educational program designed to inform police of new legal decisions and how such decisions may affect their duties.

—“Increased communications with federal law enforcement agencies where allowed.

—“**DISCOURAGEMENT** of unjust criticism of United States Supreme Court decisions, and the development of a policy of following the rule of law.

—“A more realistic approach to the problem of bail bondsmen and the abolition of the imprisonment of persons charged with crime because of technicalities or the financial inability to pay for legal services.

—“A change in policy regarding statistical records of quantities of conviction, wop-loss records, part-time assistants, assistants carrying guns and reducing charges for pleas.

—“A new approach to the nolle prosee power of the district attorney's office, first offenders, armed robbery and narcotics; punishment as only one deterrent to crime; the cause of crime; and our inadequate prisons and institutions for the criminally insane.”