

GOP Requested Withdrawal, Phil Trice Says

Republican Phil Trice's withdrawal from the Orleans Parish district attorney's race in the April 7 general election was prompted by requests from local GOP leaders, Trice says.

His action, Trice said, came when it appeared his remaining in the race against Jim Garrison, the incumbent Democrat, would "fragment the effort" of the Republican party here.

Garrison won a first-primary victory Nov. 8 against three opponents. Trice's withdrawal in effect makes Garrison's re-election official.

"LOCAL REPUBLICAN leaders have asked me, on the basis of party loyalty, to withdraw from the race for district attorney," said Trice.

"I could not agree to the validity of the reasons advanced by them, except that, through no fault of theirs or mine, a situation has arisen in which my remaining in the race could only fragment the effort of our small party," he continued.

"Although a Republican since 1964," Trice said, "I was not active in party work and did not feel the party owed me anything.

"WHILE I believed my candidacy would benefit the party, I was grateful to these same people during the months they have sought to assist me, and I respect their opinions, so when they based their request on what they thought to be the best interests of the Republican party, I had no alternative, even though I do not intend again to seek public office.

"On Feb. 18, I bowed to their appeal, and withdrew from the race. Having done so only in the hope of aiding the party, I do not intend to say anything that might detract from that.

"I thank the many people who offered me their support."

Those Republican candidates remaining in the April 7 race are Ben C. Toledano, mayoral candidate; Warren P. Balovich, candidate for District A city councilman, and Dr. J. Browne Larose, who is seeking the Orleans Parish coroner's post.