

Oser Took Illegal Pay, Foe Charges

Criminal Court Judge aspirant John P. Dowling today accused his opponent, Judge Alvin V. Oser, of continuing to draw a salary as an assistant district attorney during the time the Louisiana Bar Association had suspended him for 30 days in 1964.

Dowling is a candidate for the Democratic nomination to Section J of the Criminal District Court. Oser was appointed to the then newly created judgeship last year by Gov. John J. McKeithen.

Dowling told a press conference in the Press Club of New Orleans that the law demands that only a licensed lawyer may serve as an assistant district attorney.

DOWLING ALSO said Oser "has not seen fit to inform the voters 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 former president of the Criminal Courts Bar Association also lashed out at Oser as having been "a delinquent debtor of a disreputable bail bondsman."

Dowling claimed his opponent's "boss and benefactor," Jim Garrison, said of the incident, "As to Mr. Alvin Oser's indiscretion in borrowing money from Nick Christiana, a notoriously corrupt bondsman, this act is in my opinion inexcusable. I wholeheartedly agree that the relationship is a serious matter of conflict of interest."

Dowling said his opponent is part of a scheme to "polarize the vote in this city along racial lines in the Aug. 15 primary."

"An infamous package

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deal is being attempted . . . by a few misguided black political leaders and some opportunistic white politicians to offer my opponent as an ersatz instant liberal," said Dowling.

DOWLING SAID Oser "has discriminated against the black defendants in the imposition of sentence during his short occupancy of the bench as a political appointee."

Dowling said criminal court judges must lead the way in devising new solutions to old problems.

"If a youthful offender simply has been shuffled into an institution like Angola, which does nothing to rehabilitate him but, on the contrary, dehumanizes and embitters him and exposes him to higher education in the techniques of crime, he will return to society a far greater threat than he was when he went to jail."

He said a good judge, "like a good father," must be concerned deeply about the fate of the youthful offenders who appear before him, doing "everything in his power to effect the rehabilitation of such youngsters."

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