

# City Hall Report 'Confess' New Cry of Candidates

By DAVID SNYDER

This week City Councilman John J. Petre, a candidate for mayor, took cognizance of innuendos of alleged misdeeds by public officials by confirming that he was associated with a handbook operation a quarter of a century ago.

The statement was so well received that other candidates may jump on the bandwagon.

Said one mayoral hopeful, "If you think I'm going to let Petre walk away with the honesty vote, you're crazy.

"Petre may have beat me to the punch, but I've got a few skeletons of my own in the closet.

"I bet you didn't know, for instance, that 43 years ago tomorrow I was operating a crooked lemonade stand."

Crooked lemonade stand?

"Right. I advertised the product as 'ice cold' and there wasn't an ice cube in a barrel full."

The candidate chuckled, remembering the childhood deceit, then waxed serious again.

"I wish somebody would make an innuendo about a lemonade stand. I'd confess in a minute."



SNYDER

★ ★ ★  
ANOTHER CANDIDATE WHO ALSO hopes to benefit from one of the flying innuendos said he has a thoroughly spotty past that he hopes to confess.

"It's become the 'in' thing. It is possible that my entire ticket may hold a mass confessional on the steps of City Hall. Just think of the impact — television cameras, newspaper reporters . . ."

His voice trailed off and his watery eyes glowed as his mind boggled at the possibilities.

"I've got a lurid past, you know. Listen to this. You've heard of the Black Sox scandals, of course. Well, in 1938 I was playing softball in the Metro League for Supersoft Bakery. It was during a championship playoff game with Bilgewater Beer. I hit a home run in the last of the fifth to win the game."

There didn't seem to be anything radically wrong with that, at least not on the surface.

"Don't you see? I didn't touch home plate. I circled the bases, but I didn't touch home plate. And I didn't say a word, just trotted to the dugout."

How low! How devious! It was obvious that the man had an issue.

★ ★ ★  
PERHAPS THE MOST INGENIOUS plan has been devised by a councilmanic candidate who hopes to run on Petre's ticket: He is vague about the details, but the idea is brilliant.

"All I'll say right now is that on Nov. 8, just 25 years ago, I placed a \$2 bet on a certain nag at a certain place with a certain bookmaker whose name will be revealed at a later date."

★ ★ ★  
ON A MORE SERIOUS NOTE: As expected, the loose-knit, influential "Coldwater Committee" came up with a united front endorsement of Councilman Moon Landrieu this week.

Landrieu won the endorsement for several reasons, in the minds of the committee members.

Aside from the fact that Landrieu started with some strong backing on the committee, members concluded that he answered more forthrightly on the issues. In addition, Landrieu was more positive than some of the other candidates, principally James E. Fitzmorris Jr. and Sen. William J. Guste Jr. on the issue of Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison. Landrieu was understandably noncommittal about opposing the DA, but he was positive about not endorsing him.

The Coldwater Committee, which would like to see Garrison beaten, also would like to see Landrieu back a candidate in opposition to the controversial DA. But they also understand the problems involved unless the man endorsed is strong. They would not like to see their candidate for mayor beaten because of an endorsement in the district attorney race. Nobody sees Garrison as less than a powerful political force.

In deciding on Landrieu, the Coldwater Committee took two polls — one on electability and one on desirability.

Fitzmorris came out first in the "electability" poll but lost out to Landrieu in the second "desirability" vote.

There was one vote against Landrieu on the first ballot to choose a candidate, but this individual switched to make the endorsement unanimous.

★ ★ ★  
FOR U.S. ATTORNEY: David Treen may yet become the Republican choice for United States attorney in New Orleans. The decision will be made within the next few days. Republican leaders are meeting with Justice Department officials in Washington right now.

Treen was the first choice of Louisiana Republicans, but he turned it down. Now he is being urged by local GOP leaders to reconsider, and he might do just that. With the right kind of urging at the national level, Treen could take the job.

A state Republican decision to back Gerald J. Gallinghouse for the position has proven extremely unpopular with the more liberal element of the party.

The opposition comes from liberal whites in the party, some of them members of the Young Republicans, and from Negro Republicans led by Pierre Charles, a member of the Orleans Parish executive committee of the party. The Justice Department has received numerous telegrams and letters opposing the Gallinghouse appointment.

How the controversy is solved could determine the whole direction of the Republican Party in Louisiana.

★ ★ ★  
SHORTS: James Higgins, a candidate for the City Council to replace Henry Curtis (he is retiring) in District A, will get the endorsement of William Guste . . . Higgins has his own softball team in West Bank league play and members are carrying campaign posters . . . William Wessel, past president of the Criminal Courts Bar Association, will be a candidate for Judge Thomas Early's state House seat from Wards 6 and 7.