

Endorsements Too Expensive --Medina Group

A group of doctors backing the candidacy of Dr. Ignacio Medina for Orleans Parish coroner charged today that Dr. Medina failed to get the endorsements of three mayoral candidates when he couldn't come up with \$5,000 for each of them.

The doctors, calling themselves "Men of Medicine for Medina," are headed by Dr. Nick J. Accardo and Dr. Ralph Meier. Dr. Accardo is a private physician while Dr. Meier is in the pathology department at Hotel Dieu.

DR. ACCARDO said to date 165 doctors are supporting Dr. Medina's candidacy against his opponents, Dr. Frank E. Minyard and Dr. Carl H. Rabin, the incumbent coroner who was appointed to his post in 1968 by Gov. John J. McKeithen.

Dr. Accardo told a press conference that James E. Fitzmorris Jr., David Gertler and Moon Landrieu, or their representatives, told Dr. Medina he was their first choice for coroner but would have to produce \$5,000 for an endorsement.

Fitzmorris has since endorsed Dr. Rabin. Gertler and Landrieu have endorsed Dr. Minyard.

"DR. MEDINA is not a wealthy man," said Dr. Accardo. "He couldn't come up with \$15,000 for endorsements to run for an office that pays \$12,000 a year."

Dr. Accardo also charged that Minyard has close ties to incumbent DA Jim Garrison, which Accardo said "would make impossible an independent coroner's office."

Dr. Accardo also said that the Metropolitan Crime Commission of Greater New Orleans wrote a letter to Gov. McKeithen on June 6, 1968, in which it asked that Dr. Rabin not be appointed coroner.

"I am pledged not to reveal the contents of that letter but I assure you it is most informative," Dr. Accardo said.

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