

# Fitzmorris Withholds DA Endorsement

Mayoral candidate James E. Fitzmorris Jr. in his final public campaign address yesterday reiterated his campaign-long stand against endorsing a candidate for district attorney, saying the mayor's and DA's offices should be "separate and distinct."

He told members of the Mid-City Kiwanis Club that he made it clear at his campaign origin he would not endorse a man for DA because the two offices are not associated politically and said he will continue to hold this policy.

"I am prepared to work with the district attorney, whoever he may be, and there should be no political ties between us," Fitzmorris stated.

He said the public has had every chance to become familiar with the records of the candidates for DA and can choose for themselves.

"THE DA should be the watchdog of the community, not the housepet of the mayor," Fitzmorris said.

The candidate said he believes he has gained in percentage of votes since he was predicted a winner in September and said he is ending his campaign fulfilling his promise he would not "spill dirt, mud and public criticism" of his opponents.

in contrast, he said, "every candidate for mayor has roasted me, toasted me and burned me in every manner."

Fitzmorris said his vim and vigor are at a peak and his campaign has been a "great inspiration" to him.

He said that while some mayoral candidates tag themselves "independents," he believes there is a necessity for teamwork.

"I have always been an independent thinker," he said. "While some criticize endorsements, every major candidate appeared before the same political organizations I did and they didn't get their endorsements."

**HE SAID** he appreciates the endorsements he received because "I take the position that political organizations are people interested in government."

"I am not committed in any way, shape or form to do anything more for an organization than for any individual."