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COUNCILMAN ENDORSES LANDRIEU**2 on MCC Quit in Election Row**

Statements by the Metropolitan Crime Commission during the past three days have prompted the resignations of two MCC members and the endorsement of Democratic mayoral candidate Moon Landrieu by retiring City Councilman Henry B. Curtis.

Resignations from the MCC were submitted by State Sen. Charles G. Smither, a former board member, and Harry B. Kelleher Jr., one of the directors of the private organization.

Councilman Curtis said he decided to endorse Landrieu after reading MCC statements which represented a renewed attack by the organization on Landrieu's association with a pinball firm, TAC Amusement Co.

**SAID SEN. Smither** yesterday:

"As a former member of the board of directors and executive committee of the Metropolitan Crime Commission and a supporter from its beginning until today, I feel a responsibility to speak out regarding their recent statements concerning a mayoral candidate Moon Landrieu.

"Today I have sent a letter of resignation to the MCC. I feel that it is indefensible that the MCC would take a position concerning any candidate at this late date.

**"IF THEY ARE** nonpar-

tisan as they claim, how can they justify entering this campaign at the eleventh hour? How could it have hurt the MCC if they had waited until the election was over to make whatever statement they felt was justified, especially since the MCC has not accused any candidate of wrongdoing?

"The only logical answer is that they entered this campaign when they did with the full knowledge and expectation that they could influence votes against one candidate. This I cannot condone."

Councilman Curtis said in his statement yesterday he has "never known (Landrieu) to do a dishonorable act."

**"UNTIL TODAY,"** said Curtis, "I had not intended to make any public endorsement in the current mayoral campaign. However, after reading the statement of the Metropolitan Crime Commission in this morning's paper, I wish to say that I am now and have been supporting the candidacy of Moon Landrieu for mayor.

"I have known Moon Landrieu for the past 10 or 12 years and have complete confidence in his honesty and in-

tegrity. I have never known him to do a dishonorable act.

"I say this without reflection on Jimmy Fitzmorris (Landrieu's opponent), whom I have likewise known and admired for many years."

Kelleher said his letter of resignation from the MCC was sent because he "strongly" disagreed with the Crime Commission for the statements it made.

**KELLEHER, AN** insurance executive, said he disagreed with the MCC "for getting into the election at this date."

He added that he did not mean his resignation to reflect "derogatorily" on the MCC. "I think there are some outstanding men serving on the Crime Commission," he said, "and I think the members are trying to do what they think is right."

His resignation, Kelleher said, stemmed more from disagreement than from criticism of the organization.

**ALTHOUGH THE** Crime Commission in its statements this week made no specific allegations of wrongdoing by Landrieu, the organization said that the councilman-at-large had a conflict of interest as a public office holder and an attorney for TAC.

The Crime Commission also stated it received reports that Landrieu had made threats against the organization and its managing director, Aaron Kohn.

Landrieu has strongly denied that his statement concerning Kohn were seriously made and apologized several weeks ago to Kohn and members of the MCC.