

C. A. Bertel Voted Chief of Crime Panel

C. Alvin Bertel Jr. today was elected president of the Metropolitan Crime Commission of New Orleans Inc., succeeding James P. Schwartz.

Other officers elected by the MCC board of directors are C. Allen Favrot, H. Eustis Reily, Edwin C. Daniels and Frank B. Williams, vice presidents; Philip Gensler Jr., secretary and H. D. "Von" Graham, treasurer. Aaron M. Kohn is the MCC managing director.

At a press conference today at International House, Bertel said the crime commission, "is stronger than ever, both financially and in demonstrated support on the part of informed and concerned citizens. All activities in the year ahead will be within our broad objective to improve the criminal justice system, to make that system more effective in the control of crime and to create better public understanding to help in the reduction of the infiltration of organized crime into legitimate business.

"Our watchdog concern will continue to include the roles of police, prosecutors, courts and correctional institutions. This year we anticipate completion of a project which includes publication of a handbook to assist grand jurors.

"We will continue to make available the resources of the Metropolitan Crime Commission to, and cooperate with, investigators for the state anti-Mafia committee. We will continue to utilize our resources to assist U.S. Attorney Gerald Gallinghouse and the Organized Crime Strike Force of the Department of Justice every way possible

"A priority goal will be new and streamlined legislation to cope more adequately with the reality of today's crime on the streets and organized crime . . .

"The community is reminded that we are a civic organization, not a governmental agency, and we function on behalf of all citizens. Drawing our support from the financial contributions voluntarily made by those citizens, we stand as a non-partisan group with no personal axes to grind. We sometimes find ourselves committed to an unpopular battle when we recognize the need to do so in the public interest. We will never back away from such a stance when to do so would be a sacrifice of principle."

Bertel also served as MCC president in 1960 and 1961. He is chairman of the board of Dockside Commodity Terminals, Inc.

Favrot is president of the Orleanian Corp.; Reily, president of Reily Chemical Co.; Daniels, a partner in Ernst and Ernst, CPA firm; Williams, vice president of Williams Inc.; Gensler, an account executive with Merrill, Lynch, Pierce, Fenner and Smith Inc., and Graham, partner in charge with Arthur Anderson and Co., CPA firm.