

Judge Alcock Plans to Run For Full Term

"I confidently stand on my record," said Judge James L. Alcock in seeking election to a full term as judge of Sect. C of Criminal District Court.

Judge Alcock was appointed by Gov. John J. McKeithen to the position from which Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr. was removed by the Louisiana Supreme Court for "willful misconduct."

Judge Alcock said:

"Upon appointment to the bench last December, I found a heavy backlog of cases in my section. There were 80 people in Parish Prison awaiting trial, and some appeals three and four years old had not been handled.

"THROUGH HARD work, long hours and dedicated help of the personnel of my court, that situation has been rectified. Sect. C is now on a par with the best sections of court at Tulane and Broad and I promise you it will remain so."

Judge Alcock also said that "being aware of the inconvenience and hardship suffered by some of our jurors and witnesses, I have made it a point to take the bench on time and to dispatch the daily business of the court as quickly as possible.



JUDGE JAMES L. ALCOCK

"In this vein, I have also made courtesy a hallmark of my court."

He said he presently is working with the other judges of the court toward implementation of a jury pool. Each section of the court now is allotted 50 to 60 jurors each month, said Judge Alcock.

"THERE SIMPLY is no need to have 600 of our citizens tied up each month with jury duty at Criminal District Court," Judge Alcock said.

"A pool of 200 jurors should relieve each judge of the vexatious burden of selecting a jury panel and free many of our citizens to continue in the support of their families."

Judge Alcock is a Navy veteran and a graduate of Loyola University, where he earned a degree in business administration and law. He is married to the former Carolyn B. Rhodes. They have one son and two daughters.

Guste Assails Gremillion's Refusal to Quit

State Sen. William J. Guste of New Orleans, a candidate for Louisiana attorney general, said today he is "disappointed" that Atty. Gen. Jack P. F. Gremillion did not resign or take a leave of absence after being convicted of perjury last week in federal court.

Guste said Gremillion's refusal to resign or take a leave until his appeal of the conviction is settled in higher courts "shows his disrespect for the importance of the office of attorney general; shows he is not concerned about the fact the public can no longer have confidence in that office or the fact that the time he will spend perfecting his appeal will make it impossible for him to perform the duties of the office."

Guste said impeachment proceedings against Gremillion as suggested by some would be "too time-consuming and expensive, and by the time all the wheels could be put into motion the election would be upon us."

The voters will serve as "judges and jury," he said. "I feel confident that jury will cast its ballot on election day overwhelmingly for a change in the leadership of the office of attorney general."

McKeithen Won't Seek Gremillion Impeachment

By BILL LYNCH
States-Item Bureau

BATON ROUGE — Gov. John J. McKeithen today said he will not call a special session of the legislature to pursue impeachment of Atty. Gen. Jack P. F. Gremillion.

State Sen. John Schwegmann, a candidate for governor, asked McKeithen to summon lawmakers into session so they could act against Gremillion, who was convicted last Saturday on five counts of perjury.

Gremillion, who already has said he does not plan to resign the post he has held since 1956, intends to appeal the verdict which grew out of testimony he gave before a federal grand jury investigating the Louisiana Loan and Thrift Corp. (LL&T).

"I am not going to call a special session of the legislature for the purpose of impeachment proceedings against Atty. Gen. Jack Gremillion at the request of two politicians," McKeithen said in a press release.

"After all, the people who elected Mr. Gremillion consecutively since 1956 will have an opportunity to pass on him in about 60 days. That is the place for impeachment, if the people choose," the governor said.

Two candidates for Gremillion's job, Sen. George Oubre of Norco and J. Minos Simon of Lafayette, have called on Gremillion to resign.

Gremillion said he would reassess his candidacy for re-election.

Gremillion announced he would hold a press conference at 11 a.m. tomorrow.