

Alcock Withdraws From Court Race

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James L. Alcock has withdrawn from the race against Criminal District Court Judge Jerome Winsberg.

Alcock was Judge Winsberg's lone opponent in the Democratic primary. His withdrawal leaves Winsberg unopposed in the Aug. 19 Democratic primary.

Judge Winsberg was one of three criminal court judges involved in tapes made by the federal government in 1970 at a time when Pershing Gervais was acting as an informer for the government. U.S. Atty. Gerald Gallinghouse has made the tapes available to local officials, stating that no federal crime has been committed but suggesting that some action by local officials might be appropriate.

To date, no action has been taken.

Alcock was defeated by Winsberg in the 1971 elections by some 5,000 votes for the judgeship. Alcock, who had been first assistant district attorney to Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison, was appointed to the judgeship but lost out in the election to Winsberg.

It has long been speculated in political circles here that Garrison might ask Alcock, who had returned to the DA's office after losing to Winsberg, to withdraw in exchange for the support of Councilman Eddie Sapir in Garrison's race for the Louisiana Supreme Court. Sapir is Winsberg's former law partner and a close associate.

Alcock was reported in a staff meeting at the DA's office and could not be reached for comment. Winsberg, Sapir and Garrison were also unavailable for comment.

A spokesman for the Democratic Executive Committee said that Alcock has officially filed his withdrawal papers and is now out of the race against Winsberg.

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THREE

Gallinghouse, Garrison Clash Over Recordings

U.S. Atty. Gerald J. Gallinghouse and Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison aren't exactly seeing eye-to-eye over some tape recordings allegedly involving Pershing Gervais, two Orleans Parish Criminal Court judges and a retired judge.

Gallinghouse yesterday made arrangements for the tapes to be made available to state and local officials because "the information is serious enough to merit the concern of state and local officials."

Garrison said inferences in the tapes, concerning Judges Charles Ward and Jerome Winsberg and former Judge Malcolm V. O'Hara, do not contain sufficient evidence to present to a grand jury.

GERVAIS WAS a government informer in a pending federal case involving Garrison, two policemen and several officials of pinball compa-

nies.

The tape recordings were allegedly made by the government when Gervais was working with federal authorities in the pinball case.

Atty. Gen. William J. Guste and Jefferson Parish Dist. Atty. John Mamoulides have already confirmed that they received the transcripts.

Gallinghouse, addressing the weekly Newsmaker Luncheon at the New Orleans Press Club, said he understood that in Jefferson Parish the district attorney is going to take one of the cases to the grand jury.

GARRISON, IN A letter to Guste, said the inadequacy of the material "might be curable by further investigation," but added that Gervais made most positive statements to the effect that none of the three involved committed an offense and that this represented an effort of the Justice Department to reflect discredit upon them.

"If such is the case, no one

should know better than the government's own witness," Garrison said.

He said he failed "to see any basis for further action by this office."

Gallinghouse said the transcript was made available after his office determined that the conversations did not show any "apparent violation of any federal criminal law."

HE ADDED, however, that the tapes provide "leads" and that the transcript warrants a follow-up investigation.

Garrison said that even if there had been "solid evidence of any kind" in the material, "I would have had a serious problem with regard to prosecution. It has been the firm policy of my office not to employ electrical eavesdropping (devices) against any individual."

He said he considered this "not only a serious invasion of the right of privacy but to be a practice so totally un-American in its nature as to be totalitarian."