

LECHE DENOUNCES INVESTIGATION OF STATE'S PRIMARY

Won't Let Outsiders Tell Us How to Run Our Government, Says Judge

By Frank Allen (The Times-Picayune Staff Representative) Donaldsonville, La., Jan. 4.—Describing the "invasion of Louisiana" by members of the constitutional committee to investigate the forthcoming primary as "a spectacle not witnessed since the carpebag days," Judge Richard W. Leche, candidate for governor on the state machine ticket, declared in an address here tonight that "we are not going to have men from other states come in here and tell us how to run our government."

Judge Leche joined other state machine candidates here tonight after they had appeared on the stump during the day at Albany, French Settlement and Gonzales. He left for New Orleans immediately after speaking at a meeting at the Ascension parish courthouse.

After attacking the congressional investigation and assailing candidates on the Home Rule ticket individually and as a group, Judge Leche pledged the state administration to provide an old-age pension and to "remove the school teachers of Louisiana from politics."

Denounces 'Interference' "Under the name of the Home Rule," the gubernatorial candidate said, "they went up to Washington and had a congressional committee send its representatives into the state to tell the people how to run the election. Such a spectacle has not been witnessed since the days of the carpebaggers."

"We've got a lawful and a constitutional government in Louisiana and we don't need any outside interference. Thirty-five thousand persons assembled in New Orleans last night in protest against that invasion. We are not going to have men from other states come in here and tell us how to run our government."

"We don't need any congressional committee or the newspapers to win this election. All that it takes is the people, and the people are with us. Touching upon the subject of old-age pension, Judge Leche said that he is going to co-operate to the fullest extent with the federal government toward providing a pension and "in the matter of children's welfare and other causes which they are advocating."

Assails Home Rule "We are going to match dollar for dollar the government pension," he continued. "What chance have the people got to get an old-age pension from those who fought free schoolbooks, free poll tax, homestead exemption and good roads? Every single government blessing and benefit that Huey P. Long fought and died for that outfit (Home Rule candidates) fought."

"The only chance the poor people have of getting an old-age pension is from the administration that gave them free schoolbooks, free poll tax, homestead exemption, good roads and other benefits."

Judge Leche predicted that the state machine ticket will carry the largest majority that has ever been cast in a Louisiana election. "Asserting that the candidates on the Home Rule ticket have fought all of what he described as the benefits given the people by the Long and Allen administrations, he added that "they know now they haven't got a chance to win."

"It is not appearance that gives them away," he said. "It is votes. They know now they haven't got a chance to win. They admit it in private conversations with friends."

Flays Roland Howell "We are going to win by the largest majority that has ever been cast in a Louisiana election, and they are out now to tell the people that the election is going to be a toss-up. He next attacked the administration of federal relief funds in Louisiana. "You can't get a job for \$100 or \$150 a month," he said. "The poor people can't. They keep them in the family. They give those fat jobs to people like Roland Howell who lives down the bayou here. He gets \$6000 a year to go over the state and make speeches for them."

"The poor people get an arm or a pick. And before you get that, you have to give up your most sacred right—the right to vote your choice. "The state has got the same right to use its funds for political purposes as they have to use the federal funds, but we don't need that."

Discusses Bonus "Dear says that he supported the soldiers' bonus. I can get five votes for the soldiers' bonus right now. I'll tell you how. There is Dear, Sandlin, Sanders, Montet and Riley Wilson. Congress is now in session, and one of the most important pieces of legislation is now before that body. "These fellows, who are members of Congress, can't get away from the fact that while they are down here campaigning for their own interests it is their duty to be in Washington voting on that bill. They are paid to be in Washington, and I'm going to make it so hot for them that every one of them will take a train and go to Washington and vote for the soldiers' bonus. I'm going to tell the people all over the state about this, and I'll have them all on a train for Washington in 48 hours."

The speaker said that he is going to "take the school teachers absolutely out of politics," state and local. He said that he proposes to have enacted a tenure of office law under which teachers, once they have obtained a place in the public school system, will not be subject to removal until a petition has been filed and charges preferred, and the teacher given a hearing.

As a further measure of protection for teachers from political influence, he said that the law which he proposes to have enacted will give them the right to appeal to the courts from any action that might be taken by a school board.

Denounces Newspapers He also outlined a plan whereby, he said, he proposes to expand free hospitalization. He asserted that he proposes to have the state make arrangements with private hospitals at Baton Rouge, Lake Charles, Lake Arthur, Alexandria and Monroe,

Confesses Sending Threats to Publisher and Brewer



—Photo by The Associated Press. ROLAND E. MARCELL, 21 years old of Rochester, N. Y., shown above, confessed in Buffalo recently that he sent death threats to Frank E. Gannett, publisher, and Louis A. Wehle, brewer, of Rochester, Marcell was jailed, charged with the attempted extortion of \$250,000.

whereby the state will pay these hospital for the use of a certain number of beds, these beds to be used for charity patients.

Judge Leche concluded his address with an attack upon the "lying newspapers." "The newspapers are controlled by the advertisers, by the big interests," he said, "and when they come out against us they show which side they are on. They never have been for us, and if they did say anything good about us I would know we were on the wrong side."

At other meetings in Ascension and Livingston parishes today, other state machine candidates predicted that they will carry New Orleans by a majority of more than 60,000 votes and that they will carry every congressional district in the state.

"We are going to carry New Orleans by the biggest majority that was ever received in any election," Allen J. Ellender, candidate for the United States Senate, declared in speeches at Albany, French Settlement and Gonzales. "We're not going to stop at a mere 50,000 majority. We're going to carry New Orleans by 60,000 or 65,000 majority."

Earl K. Long, candidate for lieutenant-governor, said the state machine's majority in New Orleans will be 60,000. "And they (the Home Rule ticket) won't carry one congressional district in this state, not one," he said.

Praises Maestri The machine candidates today repeated their promise of an old-age pension and Earl K. Long reiterated his defense of Robert S. Maestri, state conservation commissioner and dictator of the machine ticket.

Long described Maestri as "an honest, honorable and legitimate business man," and declared that "Bob Maestri was the best friend Huey Long ever had." He charged that Congressman Cleveland Dear and other Home Rule candidates are condemning Maestri "in an attempt to stir up race feeling."

"They tell you," he said, "that Maestri is a terrible man; that he is identified with gambling, race tracks and the red light district. I tell you that there is not a word of truth in that."

"Bob Maestri is an honest, honorable, legitimate business man that owns real estate and made his money in the furniture business. He is not connected with any gambling. They are trying to stir up race hatred by attacking him. He is half French and half Italian, and he is proud of both."

"Who have you got on the opposition ticket?" he continued. "You have got Cleveland 'Dodo' Dear and John 'Slippery' Sandlin running for governor and the United States Senate. They came out and tell you that they were drafted to liberate the poor, down-trodden people of this state."

"Who drafted them? I'll tell you. Old Long-Armed, Buzzard-Backed Sanders got them in there hoping that he could come back."

Denounces Peterman The speaker then unleashed a bitter attack against Frank H. Peterman, WPA administrator for Louisiana, and the manner in which federal relief funds are being handled in the state. He repeated the charge that persons seeking employment on federal relief projects are being required to sign cards pledging themselves to support the Home Rule ticket before they are given jobs.

"I understand," Earl Long said in addressing a meeting at Albany, "that a few of those poor relief workers in this (Livingston) parish asked the foremen this morning to let them off a little while so that they could come to this meeting, and that they would make up for the time this afternoon, and those foremen wouldn't let them come. "They have got a proposition now, I'm told, where these relief workers can't have a day off on January 21, election day. They are going to be paid twice, and they are going to vote in groups. The foremen are going to take them down and vote them like cattle. That's what I'm told."

"They took away a fair and unbiased man, Harry J. Early, who was clearing up this relief situation in Louisiana," he continued, "and when they got ready for this campaign they put in his place as federal relief administrator Frank H. Peterman, who is a real, honest-to-goodness, red-hot politician. And don't you think he's not playing ball. "Harry Early told me that 50 percent of the money that is being sent into Louisiana for the relief of the poor is being spent on high-collared jobs, investigators and inspectors, and that only half of the money is going into the empty stomachs and the naked backs of the poor, hungry persons of this state. "Rich Families," He Says "Why, they have 150 Newcomb graduates going around investigating and inspecting the poor; members of rich families, who don't need the money they are getting from these government jobs. That's why they're spending this money. "This relief money is a sacred fund. It was dedicated for the relief

CANDIDATES GIVE SOCIAL AGENCIES' PROGRAM BACKING

Encouraging Commitments Cited by Official of Council

Gubernatorial candidates have expressed themselves as in sympathy with the twofold program for which the New Orleans Council of Social Agencies has been working several years. John Minor Wisdom, chairman of the legislative committee and vice-president of the executive committee of the council, asserted Saturday. This program is to create a state department of public welfare and to secure recognition of the responsibility of the state toward its dependent unemployables.

A short time after the candidates for governor announced the executive committee of the council endorsed for submission to the candidates

of the poor and needy by Congress, and the president said so. And don't you be hum-bugged. It is as much for you as anybody else, and you take what you can get and don't be ashamed about it. You won't owe anybody any political debt for anything you vote. And when you go to the polls vote the dictates of your conscience.

"This is going to be a fair election. We're going to be elected on ballots and not on bullets, and there are not going to be any checkers at the polls to check these poor relief workers and vote them like cattle."

Denounces Sanders Earl Long charged that J. Y. Sanders "would not have been in Congress if he had not stolen 6000 votes in every election." He added that "this vote-stealing in East Baton Rouge parish has been stopped."

"He (Sanders) gets on the radio," Earl Long asserted, "and tries to brow-beat Bob Maestri, but he don't tell you that he (Sanders) voted against the free poll tax and that he tried to put an amendment in the free schoolbook law to keep the children in the Catholic schools from getting free books. But he did that, and don't you doubt it."

Mr. Ellender in his speeches today said that the state administration will provide an old-age pension at the next session of the Legislature.

"Mr. Leche has in his platform a plan to raise money to match dollar for dollar the federal government provides toward an old-age pension," he said, "and, you believe me, this is going to be done."

"We are not going to stop with the old-age pension that is now a law. That is inadequate. Huey P. Long had the only plan that was adequate, and when I go to Washington—I know that you people are going to send me there—I'm going to pick up the torch where Huey P. Long dropped it."

Ellender for Pension Mr. Ellender asserted that if the state machine ticket is elected, Louisiana who are eligible will, under the present plan, receive an old-age pension of \$30 a month, half of which will be furnished by the federal government and the other half by the state.

"Those who are opposing us tell you that they are going to give you an old-age pension. Do they believe that they can pay an old-age pension with collar buttons? It will take \$18,000,000 to pay an old-age pension, according to Mr. Dear, and they can't raise the money. If we can do it, we can do it. You have to make those who are able to pay do so, and we're going to make them squeal some more and pay until it hurts."

He pledged himself, if elected, to fight for rehabilitation of the farmer. "If half of the money that has been spent in Louisiana had been used to help the farmers, conditions would be much better today," he asserted.

Mr. Ellender spoke in French at French Settlement, as did Attorney-General Gaston L. Porterie, a candidate for re-election. Mr. Porterie also spoke in French at Gonzales.

In addition to Messrs. Long, Ellender and Porterie, state machine candidates appearing on the stump today included T. H. Harris, state superintendent of education; L. B. Baynard, state auditor; Harry D. Wilson, commissioner of agriculture, and Miss Lucille May Grace, register of state land office.

Judge Richard W. Leche, candidate for governor, did not appear at the meetings of the day. No explanation was offered for the absence of Governor O. K. Allen, candidate for the short Senate term.

Mr. Harris declared himself in favor of a 12 months' salary, a tenure law and a pension for public school teachers of Louisiana. He stated that he will ask the Legislature to amend the law creating the state budget committee to remove teachers from state control.

"I think," he said, "that the principals and the teachers should be selected by the parties boards. I don't want state politics in the schools."

MAN INJURED WHEN TRAM, AUTO CRASH

Arthur Mueller, 56, Receives Minor Hurts in Accident

Arthur Mueller, 56 years old, 1236 First street, received slight injuries Saturday morning when an automobile he was driving at Caffin avenue and Chartres street is reported by police to have been struck by a St. Claude street car. At Charity hospital, where Mueller was taken by a passing motorist, it was said he suffered lacerations of the head and left thumb.

Police say Mueller was driving along Caffin avenue and the street car, with Motorman H. Cavalier, 2422 St. Claude avenue, and Conductor Arthur Bordelon, 710 Pauline street, in charge, was proceeding down Chartres street. No action was taken by police against the streetcar motorman.

AGED MAN DIES AFTER COLLAPSING IN PARK

An aged man collapsed Saturday on a roadway in the City Park extension and died before arrival of an ambulance. The body was removed to the city morgue, where it is unidentified, police reported.

Frank Wallace, 1806 Perdido street, and Floyd Butler, 2511 Philip street, saw the man collapse and brought him to the WPA first aid station in the City Park extension. Stephen Huff, 3105 St. Claude avenue, an attendant, rendered first aid, but without success. He was described as being about 65 years old, 150 pounds in weight, 5 feet 8 inches tall and wearing an old gray suit and hat.

FEDERAL POST SLATED FOR CHICAGO LAWYER

(By International News Service) Chicago, Jan. 4.—Brien McMahon, 35 years old, who prosecuted the case against Louis Piquette, John Dillinger gang attorney, will be named chief of the original division of the attorney-general's office in Washington next week, the Chicago American said today.

McMahon, one of the youngest ever to hold such an important post in the government's war against crime, has been special assistant to Attorney-General Cummings and in that place had charge of a number of major prosecutions throughout the country.

SON OF COLLEGE HEAD DIES

(By The Associated Press) Bryn Mawr, Pa., Jan. 4.—Jay Gibson Gates, son of Thomas S. Gates, president of the University of Pennsylvania, was found dead of carbon monoxide gas in the garage at the rear of his home tonight. He was 25 years old.

dates the proposed creation of a state department of public welfare; appropriation of state funds for aid to dependent children, blind, the aged, and for maternal and child welfare; adequate unemployment insurance and old-age benefit laws, and repeal of those state laws which hinder or prohibit the expenditure of federal monies in Louisiana under federal regulations, Mr. Wisdom said.

"The commitments of the gubernatorial candidates are extremely encouraging," Mr. Wisdom said. "Mr. Cleveland Dear has said, 'One of the first acts of my administration will be to establish by law a department of state government for the purpose of co-operating with the federal government in granting old-age pensions, aid to mothers and children and relief for the blind as provided in the statute, as well as to take advantage of the unemployment compensation provided for in that legislation.'"

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SAMARITANS DISCUSS MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Announcement was made Saturday of a conference for increased membership and financial rehabilitation by members of the Eureka Grand Lodge No. 27 of the Good Samaritans of Louisiana, a negro organization. I. E. Curtis, grand chief, spoke, as did J. S. Morgan, J. E.

Johnson, V. Derbigny and A. S. Nixon. A. E. Slacomb and L. J. St. Cyr were secretaries.

Tuesday at 8 p. m. at the home of Mrs. Rufus Phelps, 1117 North White street, officers of the organization announced Saturday.

POLITICAL MEETING SCHEDULED TUESDAY

A joint meeting of the National Democratic and the Jefferson Democratic Associations of the Eighth Precinct, Sixth Ward, will be held

Tuesday at 8 p. m. at the home of Mrs. Rufus Phelps, 1117 North White street, officers of the organization announced Saturday.

SECOND SEMESTER BEGUN BY SEMINARY

The Colored Baptist Seminary, through J. C. Nicholas, president, announced Saturday the beginning of

its second semester at the First African Baptist church, 2216 Third street. Free textbooks are supplied.

The seminary trains preachers, teachers and laymen for work among local negro congregations. Increased enrollment was reported. I. E. Curtis is dean of the institution and R. W. Coleman is registrar.

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