

Ourso Ousted From Office

(Continued From Page One) of the secretary of state's office was also at the Iberville Courthouse this morning. Dr. Currier said Ripple's function was only to deliver extra copies of the governor's executive order to serve on public officials in the parish.

Copies of the order were being served in other offices in the courthouse late this morning.

The new sheriff said there will be no changes in the staff, at present, at far as he is concerned, but he said he hasn't

point a coroner to fill the unexpired term. The new coroner would then assume the post of sheriff if it is still vacant.

Handwritten Endorsement

The letter bore a handwritten notation at the bottom, dated Feb. 19, 1968, which read:

"I hereby join in the recommendation to suspend the Sheriff of Iberville parish along with Legislative Auditor pursuant to Article 9, Section 8 of the Constitution."

It was signed by Comptroller Theriot.

siana, at the Capitol, in the City of Baton Rouge, on this the 19th day of February, A. D. 1968.

"JOHN J. McKEITHEN, governor of Louisiana."

Dr. Currier was born in New Orleans, Dec. 16, 1925. He received his B.S. degree from Tulane University in 1946 and was graduated from LSU Medical School in 1949.

He then served a year as an intern in the New Orleans Charity Hospital and then two years in the Navy, spending eight months in Korea and Japan as medical officer of a destroyer



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at present, at far as he is concerned, but he said he hasn't talked to the staff as a whole about it yet.

He said the staff will all have to be sworn in again with his assumption to the office.

Dr. Currier said unless there is some new action that would affect his position, he would serve in the sheriff's office until the new commissions come out for coroner on May 15, Lancaster said, "We will take the necessary steps to transfer the bank accounts to the custody of Dr. Currier."

The depository for the sheriff's funds is the Citizens Bank and Trust Co., Plaquemine.

An official of the bank had said earlier this morning there had been no action as yet to transfer the funds under Dr. Currier's custody.

It was signed by Comptroller Theriot.

The ouster petition filed against Ourso last week alleged Ourso had operated a guard service, using deputy uniforms and parish vehicles for companies in the parish.

Taxes Not Involved

The suspension does not concern state taxes as collected in Iberville. Roy DeJean, chief civil deputy, in fact called Auditor Lancaster early Monday and was told his accounts were in perfect order. There had been reports last week the suspension would be sought on grounds Ourso was in arrears in paying the state taxes the parish collects.

But DeJean, who has long been in charge of tax collections in Iberville, was informed his accounts were in perfect order

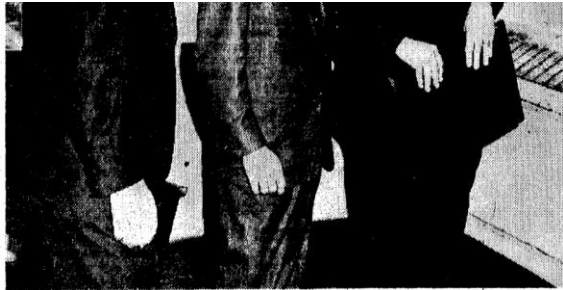
months in Korea and Japan as medical officer of a destroyer squadron.

After his release from service, he was in residency at Lafayette Charity Hospital for a year. He came to Plaquemine in 1953.

He was first appointed as parish coroner in March 1959, on recommendation of the police jury when Dr. R. D. Martinez died. His appointment as coroner was approved by the Senate and House of Representatives in the fiscal session of the Legislature that year.

That fall, he sought election to his first full term as coroner. He was re-elected four years ago, but did not seek a third term as coroner.

Dr. Currier is active in civic affairs here, holding membership in the Knights of Co-



TAKE OVER OFFICE—The office of suspended Iberville Parish Sheriff Jessel M. Ourso was physically taken over this morning when (left to right) Legislative Auditor J. B. Lancaster, Joe Burris, a top Lancaster aide, and Dr. M. E. Currier, Iberville Parish coroner and new sheriff walked into the sheriff's office at Plaquemine early today.

up members. I Mitchell Sharp sured we had e to carry the bl the accident."

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Currier's custody.

Plaquemine Police Chief Dennis Songy was at the courthouse early this morning, prior to the arrival of Lancaster and Currier, and remained in the sheriff's offices most of the morning as the events unfolded. Songy said his interest in being present was to confer with the new sheriff and his chief aides on problems concerning continuing co-operation between the sheriff's department and Plaquemine City Police.

A major area of co-operation has been a system under which the sheriff's office handles radio calls for the city police between 4 p.m. and 8 a.m.

Songy said he was anxious to discuss this with the new sheriff and determine whether co-operation will continue.

Records were in perfect order as always.

Then when the suspension was ordered, it was learned it involved the guard service which Ourso operated.

Funds due the state from Iberville parish from tax collections are on time and in perfect order, DeJean was assured.

The executive order issued by Gov. McKeithen, who is due to go to Washington this week to testify on a tidelands bill follows:

SUBJECT: Suspension from office of Sheriff Jessel M. Ourso under Article IX, Section 8 of the 1921 Constitution of the State of Louisiana.

AUTHORITY: This Order is issued under the authority of Article IX, Section 8 of the Constitution of the State of Louisiana.

bership in the Knights of Columbus, the Rotary Club, the American Legion, the Parish Medical Society, The Louisiana and American Medical Associations and the American Academy of General Practice.

NATIONAL BAN

(Continued From Page 1) to use their contempt power against anyone, including reporters and editors, who "willfully" try to affect a verdict by disseminating statements about the defendant or the issues.

The stated objective of these limitations is to shield defendants from prejudiced jurors.

ABA President Earl F. Morris told reporters the new ethics code probably will be ready for adoption

Raborn Nixes Union

(Continued From Page One) unable to attend tomorrow's meeting.

Parish Atty. Gordon Kean said the contract with the union had worked well during the past two years and that the most objectionable feature, maintenance of membership, had been eliminated from the new pact.

It will be up to the councilmen tomorrow to decide whether they want to honor Williamson's request to postpone action on the matter.

Six Votes Needed

For adoption of the contract

'Are Still Groping'

"As a result, we are still groping," Gerald added. "It was a case of dropping something when it shouldn't have been dropped."

Williamson said he wrote Kean a letter at the outset of negotiations with the union, asking that the parish attorney follow through on a council directive to test the legality of the pact.

"He assured me he would go ahead," Williamson said. "I don't know of any action by the council or personnel board asking that it infringes on the civil service system and the plan of government."

"The plan of government clearly sets up provisions for employ relations in the city and a parish governments through civil service and the personnel board," Raborn said in a letter to fellow councilmen.

"When we bargain with any particular group for special consideration we are treating the rest of our employees unfairly," he said. "We are, in effect, saying to them that civil service is inadequate and the voting taxpayers were wrong when they instituted this form of government."

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He said Verb men from Unic was sending out wanted us to p working day to picket line."

The witness walked the pic Barber Bros. and Union Tar

tion will continue.

Reactions of several on-lookers at the courthouse was mixed. A man dressed in construction workers clothes told a reporter, "Why don't you get Gov. McKeithen's picture? He's a crook."

Said a 79-year-old shoemaker, "If you're going to take money, don't take more than you can owe."

"I only get a piddling amount of money to live on," said the on-looker. "With the salary he gets, if he does wrong, he's wrong."

"I don't know," a customer in the civil sheriff's office commented when asked his opinion of the suspension. This on-looker commented he felt if Ourso was doing wrong something should be done. "He's been doing plenty from what I read,"

siana.

"WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 8 of the Constitution of this state provides that upon recommendation of the auditor of the State of Louisiana, (see: Article V, Section 1 of the Constitution), the governor may suspend any officer charged with the custody or collection of public funds when in arrears; and

"WHEREAS, the auditor of the State of Louisiana, the Honorable Roy R. Theriot, (Comptroller), (See: Article V, Section 1 of the State Constitution), has this day recommended to me that Sheriff Jessel M. Ourso of Iberville Parish, Louisiana, be suspended from his office under the authority contained in Article IX, Section 8 of the State Constitution; and

"WHEREAS, the legislative auditor of the State of Loui-

new ethics code probably will be ready for adoption by the House of Delegates next February.

He said the bar association, state courts, local bar groups—and possibly state legislatures—to implement the new guidelines.

Morris, a Columbus, Ohio, lawyer, appeared optimistic, but Murray, managing editor of the Arizona Republic, said in a statement: "Fortunately, neither the ABA or the House of Delegates makes the law."

He declared: "Publishers and editors must be prepared to spend whatever is necessary in the way of reporters' time and litigation costs to guarantee that police chiefs do not manage

For adoption of the contract by the Parish Council, six affirmative votes will be required. For adoption by the City Council, four affirmative votes are necessary.

The City Council currently has a working agreement with Local 633 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO, but the Parish Council does not. The contract affects employees in the refuse and maintenance division of the Department of Public Works.

Key proposals in the revised pact reportedly include:

— Elimination of the controversial clause requiring that once a man joins the union, he be required to maintain that membership as a condition of his employment. The provision

council or personnel board asking that the matter be dropped."

Kean indicated today his not going into court yesterday was closely tied to the proposed contract revision eliminating the clause calling for union membership as a condition of employment.

This was one of the major objections of the Parish Personnel Board.

In addition, Kean said, the council negotiating team had requested he hold off any court action on the suit.

"I felt it was desirable to wait until the council acts on the new contract," Kean said. "This contract provides that nothing shall conflict with sections of the Plan of Government."

There is a question as to

ment."

Raborn said the "catastrophes" encountered in Memphis, Tenn., and New York City involving disputes with refuse collectors "are indications of what happens when local officials surrender the health and welfare of their citizens to outside leaders of special interest groups."

The Ward 2 councilman proposed that if funds are available for pay raises then "we should consider all our employees."

It has been estimated that to grant a 10-cent per hour increase to the 727 DPW employees affected by the contract would require some \$150,000 per year.

"During any emergency," Raborn said, "our police and firemen are exposed to great personal danger, even to the loss of

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Asked if he e business manage dy Partin or Ver Tank picket line, Verbois "came time after the when the check him.

as doing wrong, something could be done. "He's been plenty from what I read," said.

There were reports that a large number of persons visited Orso's house last night. One person, who asked not to be identified, said he had had a one call from a friend who told him a large number of cars were seen around the house.

Another source said he had seen the cars himself in the neighborhood of Orso's home. Plaquemine Street here. "Phone calls to Orso's residence around 9 a.m. this morning, the time when Lancaster d Currier were originally expected to arrive at the courthouse were not answered. Sheriff Orso was not summoned because he operated a night guard service (for which

State Constitution; and "WHEREAS, the legislative auditor of the State of Louisiana, the Honorable J. B. Lancaster, (See: Article VI, Section 26 of the State Constitution), has also recommended to me that Sheriff Jesse M. Orso of Iberville Parish, Louisiana, be suspended from his office under the provisions of Article IX, Section 8 of the State Constitution; and

"WHEREAS, a copy of a recent audit made by the legislative auditor of the State of Louisiana, the Honorable J. B. Lancaster, has been furnished me and is attached hereto and made a part hereof, together with the recommendations of both the legislative auditor and the state comptroller (auditor). Now, therefore, I John J. McKeithen, governor of the

porters' time and litigation costs to guarantee that police chiefs do not manage the news to suit themselves, that prosecutors do not censor what the public has a right to know . . . and that judges don't try to suppress legitimate news . . ."

D. Tennant Bryan, one of the three news executives who urged delay, commented: "It seems to me that the House of Delegates attempted to amend the Constitution and I doubt they have the authority."

Fighting alongside the publisher of the Richmond (Va.) Times Dispatch and News Leader, were Theodore F. Koop, a CBS vice president, and Michael J. Ogden, executive editor of the Providence (R.I.) Jour-

nal and Bulletin. be required to maintain that membership as a condition of his employment. The provision was never enforced. The substitute provision would require that once a man joins the union, he be required to pay dues for one year.

—A 10 cents per hour increase for the 777 employees in the refuse and maintenance division of the Department of Public Works. This would require approval of the Parish Personnel Board.

—Extension of the working agreement to cover employees paid with parish as well as with city funds.

—Retention of a "no strike" clause like the one in the present contract.

Osterberger, who served on the negotiating team, said the main reason for his change of

position was his change of position is that the maintenance of membership clause has been eliminated.

The councilmen who sided with Osterberger in 1966 and kept the contract from passing on the 10-member parish council were Williamson, Raborn, Goode Smith and Gaston Ger-

ald. The latter four indicated today they have not changed positions.

The five votes in 1966 were sufficient to prevent passage on the parish council. But the City Council adopted the pact 4-3 with Williamson, Smith and Osterberger in opposition, Gerald and Raborn are Parish Councilmen.

The revised new contract was hammered out in secrecy by a

small committee with sections of the Plan of Government.

"There is a question as to whether the amended pay plan will be implemented by the Personnel Board," he added. The 10-cent per hour increase cannot be put into effect without approval of the board.

Kean said that if the new contract is adopted by the council, he will check with the Personnel Board to see if that body wants to pursue the court test of the working agreement.

Robert Holloway, chairman of the three-man board, said recently he wanted Kean to vigorously pursue the lawsuit.

Raborn's criticism of the working agreement centered

born said, "our police and firemen are exposed to great personal danger, even to the loss of their lives. We certainly should not forget them."

Gerald also indicated he thinks a union contract for public employees is contrary to the plan of government.

He was also critical of the set-up under which foremen, up to and including the Foreman III level, are eligible for union membership.

"You have foremen supervising men who are in the same union," he said.

Gerald said that failure to act on the lawsuit aimed at testing the work pact left the council "still groping."

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nded because he operated a night guard service (for which charged \$3.50 an hour night time and \$5.25 for over- and paid hired guards \$21 an hour) but because he did not possit the money received for a guard service in his salary and account for it properly.

In fact, Dr. Currier said he was advised in a meeting yesterday with the governor, Grellion and Lancaster at the mansion at 3 p.m. that the guard service is "perfectly legal" and that he could continue the service if he so chose. But, said he has not yet made a decision.

Dr. Currier said he would not be anyone at this time in the sheriff's office and he would not try a gun as sheriff.

The strategy of officials at the

Now, therefore, I John J. McKeithen, governor of the State of Louisiana, do hereby suspend Sheriff Jesse M. Orso from his office as sheriff of the Parish of Iberville, State of Louisiana, effective this date, under the authority contained in Article IX, Section 8 of the 1921 Constitution of the State of Louisiana.

"It is further ordered that the coroner of the Parish of Iberville, Dr. Mortimer F. Currier, immediately undertake the duties of the office of sheriff of the Parish of Iberville, Louisiana, as provided under the provisions of Article VII, Section 71 of the 1921 Constitution of the State of Louisiana, and that the coroner of Iberville Parish, Dr. Mortimer F. Currier, also serve a copy of this executive order upon the sheriff

Ogden, executive editor of the Providence (R.I.) Journal and Bulletin.

ADDITIONAL FLA.

(Continued From Page One) Other counties such as Volusia remained open but had little more than babysitting operations. An official in Daytona Beach said 8th graders were supervising younger students in some schools. He said all schools would be closed Wednesday.

The Florida Education Association said 9,000 more teachers would join the 26,000 who did not report for work Monday.

Christian said today's activities would show whether the teachers could effectively shut down Florida's schools.

He said 24,776 teachers of the

the negotiating team, said the main reason for his change of position is that the maintenance of membership clause has been eliminated.

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Red Antiaircraft

Kean Antiaircraft

(Continued From Page One) Cong Sunday, but only sporadic sniper fire was reported today after U.S. paratroopers overcame light resistance and retook the hospital where enemy forces had dug in.

Some 400 miles due north, U.S. and South Vietnamese Marines still struggled to crush the

BOLD ROBBERS

(Continued From Page One) Williams said the robbery was staged between 9:30 and 9 a.m. He was found bound in the station at 9:05 a.m. by Gerald McGregor, district supervisor for the oil company.

The three were traveling in an old white car, according to

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