

# Hate Issue Arises In Louisiana Race

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SHREVEPORT, La. — An assertion of hate has emerged as a dominant issue during the final days of a Louisiana first-primary governor's race.

On Saturday, Louisiana Democrats go to the polls to select runoff candidates from a slate of 10 names. Several public opinion polls indicate that only four of them stand a chance to make the two runoff spots.

Of those four, two held ties to the Kennedy administration. The others had vigorously attacked administration policies during early stages of the campaign.

**NOW IT SEEMS** that backers of at least one of the two candidates with administration ties are pointing vehemently to the other two contenders, charging they had been peddling hate in their campaigns.

The Shreveport Times, in an editorial Thursday, deplored this turn of events, saying:

"During the final few days of the state primary campaigns, a revolting effort is being made in some parts of the state actually to capitalize on the horrible and tragic assassination of a president of the United States.

"This is being done in an obvious effort to create hate in the hearts of voters for two specific candidates who are described falsely and without one iota of documentation as 'haters' of John Fitzgerald Kennedy."

Also this week, Louisiana newspapers were crediting an unnamed individual as saying, in paid advertising, that a vote for the antiadministration candidates would be "an endorsement of the Dallas tragedy and a condemnation of the lawful processes of government."

**THE TWO** candidates who held administration ties are Delesseps S. Morrison of New Orleans and Rep. Gillis Long of Alexandria.

Morrison, former mayor of New Orleans, was named in 1961 by President Kennedy to the post of ambassador to the Council of the Organization of American States. He resigned earlier this year.

Twice previously Morrison has run unsuccessfully for governor, although he was in the runoff both times and once led the ticket in a first-primary election. Polls put him in the lead now.

Long, who was elected to the

House of Representatives in 1962, is a distant cousin of Huey Long and a second cousin of Sen. Russell Long, who has given his endorsement to his cousin.

**THE OTHER** two men in contention, as the opinion polls show it, are Robert F. Kennon of Baton Rouge, who was governor of Louisiana from 1952 to 1956, and John J. McKeithen, attorney and member of the Louisiana Public Service Commission.

The other candidates are Shelby M. Jackson, a conservative who is expected to run strongly in Northern Louisiana, Claude Kirkpatrick, Hugh P. Lasseigne, Louis J. Michot Jr., Roswell Thompson and Wilford L. Thompson.

Until the tragic events of Nov. 22, the race was running hot, with the Kennedy administration being the predominant issue.

In this earlier stage, Morrison kept pleading for a governor's election and a president's election later. He promised to support the man the people wanted next November.

**LONG, WHOSE** name alone will get him a certain number of votes in Louisiana, did not ever accept the charge that he was an administration man. He, in fact, issued denials.

But the others, led by Kennon, McKeithen and Jackson, kept the brand on both Long and Morrison until the tragedy in Dallas.

In the week following, the race came almost to a standstill. This week the hate charges were turned loose.

In its lengthy editorial comments on these charges, the Shreveport Times said a college president in Louisiana used a memorial service to the assassinated President Kennedy as "a vehicle from which to launch absolutely undocumented and unprovable charges of hate against what he called 'several candidates', plus an additional unnamed candidate who was accused of claiming to have 'hated first'."

In deploring the advertisements which stated a vote for the other candidates would be an endorsement of the Dallas tragedy, the newspaper declared:

"Thus even every individual who voted for Mr. Kennon or Mr. McKeithen is damned as 'endorsing' the assassination of a president . . . never in American political history that we can recall has anyone sunk to such depths as trying to capitalize on the horrible and tragic assassination of a president as a means of trying to influence voters."