Cajundome Needs Board Now To Handle Bookings

By KATHLEEN THAMES

Tourist Officials Hamstrung

Guests at Lafayette hotels and motels will help pay for the operation of the new Cajundome if Council president Al Simon has his way. He told The Advertiser today he has suggested that local legislators seek an additional one-cent hotel/motel tax when the state legislature convenes for its regular session in April.

That extra penny, Simon said, "would be used exclusively for the operation of the Cajundome."

A portion of an existing two percent hotel/motel tax has already been earmarked for operation of the new civic center.

"I feel we've made our point," he said, noting that the Auditorium-Dome Commission which used to help manage the existing Municipal Auditorium has disbanded.

"We need to take some responsibility in that regard," Simon said.

Cajundome Needs Board For Bookings

Breaux said tourist officials are hamstrung by a lack of information and direction that can only be provided by an Auditorium-Dome Commission and dome manager.

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But city officials said recently that the city does not yet have enough money to operate the Cajundome.

Simon estimated that an extra penny hotel/motel tax would generate about $450,000 to $500,000 a year.

He pointed out that only guests would pay the tax, not the general public.

"I don't think an extra penny will hurt the hotel/motel business that much," Simon said.

The Council president said he has approached Rep. Ron Gomez with his proposal. "I think he's receptive to it," Simon said.

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