**Real Reason For Dome Commission Delay Surfaces?**

It's been a busy week at City Hall. The budget has been whittled down because of a slump in revenues, the administration has been slapped by the auditor because of possible bid law violations and numerous street and drainage projects have had to be placed on hold.

But the hottest issue in town still is the appointment of a commission to oversee the new Cajundome and the Municipal Auditorium.

City councilmen argued with each other and challenged some of the appointments to the commission before voting 3-2 not to appoint the nominated 11 people.

The Advertiser has pushed for the appointment and was critical of the excuse given for delaying it — that the governor had not formally committed funds for its completion. Councilmen have said that without a guarantee that the money would be allocated, the city would be going out on a limb by setting up a commission for an incomplete facility.

The governor last week said that he will push for the funding, almost guaranteeing that it will be provided.

**Real Reason?**

With that excuse out of the way, what might have been the real reason for the delay has now surfaced. A majority of the Council doesn't like some of the nominees.

Insiders at City Hall say the Council has been sending signals to Mayor Dud Lastrapes every time it delayed the appointments. The disagreement has been kept behind closed doors, but apparently was not a silent one.

Before the vote was taken Tuesday night, Council President Al Simon indicated that he knew the proposal probably would fail. He urged the Council to put aside differences and approve the commission for the betterment of the city.

But three councilmen, Bob Domingue, Benny Ritchey and Dub Hudson, held tight to their beliefs that different people should be selected — either for political or business reasons. Simon and Wilfred Pierre voted to approve the nominees.

Hudson, the most vocal of the trio that refused to go along with the mayor's plan, said he believes more businesspeople should be appointed because the facilities will have to be run as businesses. Domingue says his opposition has a lot to do with there being no one from the north side of the city on the commission.

Ritchey normally does not shy away from expressing his beliefs. But when questioned about his opposition, his comment was "No comment."

**Nominees**

Eleven people are proposed for the commission: Gloria Knox, Louis Mann, Willis Ducrest, Dr. Kenneth

**Mike Hasten**

Brown and Jeannie Rush (nominated by Lastrapes); Mario Mamalakis, Bill Broadhurst and Jim Caillier (nominated by Authement); Bill Buck (nominated by the Hotel-Motel Association); and Gerald Breaux (nominated by the tourist commission). Sid Ory was nominated by Authement and Lastrapes.

No one is publicly saying who should be substituted for whom, but Lastrapes and Authement met with the Council in a closed-door meeting yesterday to try to smooth out some of the wrinkles. Lastrapes says some progress was made and Authement came out saying he won't budge.

The meeting, by the way, was legal. State law allows such discussions in private.