GROWTH CITED FOR ASCENSION

Industrial Expansion Is
Hailed

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(T.P. Bevay Lafourche Bureau)

GONZALES, La. - Major industries located in Ascension Parish last year paid approximately $1,200,000 in local and state taxes, R. Gordon Kean Jr., city-parish attorney of East Baton Rouge Parish, said here.

Speaking at an industrial inducement conference at the Gonzales Country Club, Kean said these industries in Ascension Parish "have provided approximately 1,000 permanent jobs which have in turn meant business and prosperity for all of the people of this parish."

The conference, spearheaded by Ascension Sheriff H. M. Waguespack, was attended by leaders of the 18 major industries in the area, and also political leaders who heard Kean discuss legal and practical aspects in the establishment of industrial areas.

Gov. John J. McKeithen was represented by his executive counsel, William B. Redmann, who noted that industry has supplanted cotton as king in Louisiana. He pledged the cooperation of the governor's office to the expanding of industry.

Calling Ascension a parish with responsible leadership, Kean predicted that if industrial areas are established and properly planned, "it will be another great stride forward in the continued industrial expansion of this area."

He said the Ascension police jury has been asked to create an industrial area on the west bank of the Mississippi River encompassing property owned by the First Mississippi Corp. and the First Nitrogen Corp., who are developing a chemical complex.

He said much benefit could be obtained through this for industry and the parish because to industry "it gives a stabilized tax base on which to plan further developments, and to the parish it permits centralization of industrial development and encourages expansion by existing and new industries."

Charles Jacks of Ormet Corp. in Ascension gave a rundown on the total investment of the major industries and the number of employees in each, and said the investment in Ascension Parish amounts to $500 million.

Special recognition was paid by Sheriff Waguespack to Leon Geismar, president of the police jury, and Mrs. Willie Casso, police juror, who was introduced as the highest ranking woman public official in the parish.