Higher Ed Deadlock

The politics over the selection of a new president of the Board of Regents would be intolerable—if there were anything for the new leader of higher education to do.

After the full board had ordered it to take another look last month, the search committee returned with the politically-correct answer of former SLU president Larry Crain, who is the favorite of the governor, chairman Luffey and board member Gus Mijalis. But former Governor Buddy Roemer’s leftover appointees are blocking Crain’s election in an 8-8 deadlock.

Because of the stalemate, sources say that a compromise candidate or two is likely to be advanced. Two names mentioned are former state Rep. Virgil Orr of Lincoln Parish and...
its boat and terminal complex. If the board grants another license for the Red River, Binion's could recoup the investment it has made in Louisiana by selling its boat to the new group. If not, a shiny, new paddlewheeler won't do Jack Binion much good in the desert.

**WITH MORE MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION vehicles than State Police cars on the road, Sen. Steve Thompson is pressing for reform in the $63 million (state share: $16 million) Medicaid program he has labeled as out of control.**

This week, Department of Health and Hospitals officials will propose new regulations and possible legislation to tighten up the system. Also to be considered is awarding exclusive, parishwide contracts by competitive bids, as is done in the New Orleans area. Rural northeast Louisiana has the most providers and the most reported abuse.

Sen. Thompson, however, wants to see a moratorium on new licenses. "There are some serious investigations of providers going on around the state, and they are still issuing more certificates. I question their good judgment about that," he said. "We should put a moratorium on new licenses. It baffles me how they let it get out of control. Some heads are gonna get cracked over this:"

**LOUISIANA LEADS THE NATION** in the percentage of its adult population in jail, so we ought to know something about running a prison system. A team of federal auditors agreed with that last week, when it labeled Angola a "constitutional, safe and humane environment."

With the audit team's report, national accreditation is near, and following that, a release from the federal court order can't be far away.

Louisiana's 11 other adult prisons have been accredited since Gov. Edwin Edwards appointed Richard Stalder Secretary of the Department of Corrections. Angola was a hellhole when Edwards first took office in 1972, and through his first corrections secretary, the late Elayn Hunt, he started doing something about it. He well deserves the first-of-its-kind award of merit given him by the American Correctional Association.