CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

Lastrapes, In Detroit, Backs Ban On Abortions

DETROIT (AP) — The mayor of Lafayette, La., is looking forward to voting for the anti-abortion plank proposed by the Republican National Convention's platform committee.

"I strongly support a human life amendment to the U.S. Constitution," said Mayor Dudley Lastrapes, 50. "With the moral problems we have today, it would appeal to many people."

Lastrapes, who also was a delegate to the 1976 convention, isn't talking just about welfare abortions. He wants a total ban on all abortions — period.

To accommodate pro-life activists, the convention will be asked to approve precisely such a prohibition. During the years it would take to enact the amendment, Congress would be asked to restrict the use of federal funds to pay for abortions performed on the poor.

Additionally, the Republican platform suggests that Supreme Court and other judicial vacancies be filled by judges who respect traditional family values and the sanctity of innocent human life.

"We've got to take a stand in this country and this is of such moral consequence, ... It's a conscience issue. We're standing up for the unborn child," said Lastrapes. "It's a matter of taking a human life."

As a mayor, Lastrapes said he is worried, too, about government attitudes toward cities. He sees Ronald Reagan as a president who will help cities become financially independent.

"I plan to talk to some people to see if we can follow the type of program Gov. Reagan is talking about. Rather than have to go to Washington and ask for federal funds, let's reduce the size of federal government and keep the tax base at home."

As an example, let's say the state collects three cents in sales taxes," said Lastrapes. "It's simply more efficient use of the tax dollar."

Lastrapes and most other members of the Louisiana delegation arrived Sunday, joining platform committee members Marilyn Thayer of New Orleans and Roy Brun of Shreveport.

The delegation was to hold its first caucus Sunday night.