LeBLANC SAYS THAT CHARGES ARE UNTRUE

Lafayette Tribune

Fernand Mouton's Statements Are False Says Commissioner

March 5, 1931 (Thurs.)

Dudley J. LeBlanc, public service commissioner and announced candidate for governor, in a statement issued for publication denies the statement made by Fernand Mouton of Lafayette, insurance commissioner, that the election of Robert L. Mouton, as mayor of Lafayette, was a severe blow to the candidacy of Mr. LeBlanc for governor. Mr. LeBlanc's statement follows:

"It would seem folly to the people who know Fernand Mouton for me to endeavor to answer a statement of his printed in yesterday's States but there might be some people in Louisiana who are not familiar with this liar. For that reason, therefore, I deem it proper to answer him.

"Fernand Mouton says the truth when he says that I supported Riley Wilson for Governor, but that is not the only truthful part of his statement. When he says I supported Senator Randell he lies and he knows he lies. I took no part in the campaign whatever at that time I was actively engaged in the organization of the A.W. Pilgrimage to Nova Scotia and Canada. I returned home a few days before the election and no man can say that I asked him to vote for either candidate.

Corrects Record

"Then he says I supported a losing candidate for Sheriff of Vermilion Parish. When he lies he purposely forges his statement to make me look like a liar. I have never asked one man to vote for either candidate for Sheriff, as both candidates were distant relatives of mine and I was not interested in a fight of such a local nature. Many of my ardent supporters including my campaign manager for Commissioner supported the candidate who won.

"Then when he says that the defeat of J. Maxime Roy for Mayor of Lafayette was a blow, I say that it was not half as much a blow to me as it was to his Master, HeCY. Long because I am commonly known that Maxime Roy, the defeated candidate for Mayor, was supported by the Long faction of Lafayette. Long in fact brought them all to Baton Rouge three weeks before the election and had Roy and others who had supported Long in his fight for Governor, sign a pledge that they would support any candidate for Governor that Long would endorse. He went on further. In this pledge Long inserted that under no circumstances should they support me for Governor. Does that indicate that Roy was my candidate?"

Mouton Defeated

"That is the situation and Fernand Mouton knows that. He enumerated several political campaigns that occurred in south Louisiana but through his usual sin of omission he purposely forgot to say that I supported Numa F. Montet for Congress and I succeeded in defeating him (Fernand Mouton) for that office. The fact of the matter is that Fernand Mouton even for Congress was defeated in his own home box and right now could not be elected dog catcher in any part of Lafayette or Lafayette Parish.

"His statements amount to nothing as I said before with the people who know him and an utterance from him at this time against me sounds like his "Master's Voice". If they did not think that I was the sure winner in this next gubernatorial campaign they would not at this early stage of the campaign want to mislead the people by belittling my chances for election.

"Regardless of what dumberies like Fernand Mouton says or even does, I will be in this race for Governor when the bell rings and I am willing to let the people decide at the polls who will be the next Governor. I have no fear of their verdict and after I am Governor I want the people to know that men like Fernand Mouton who voted the other day to raise the insurance premiums on the docks at New Orleans something like three or four hundred dollars a day which the taxpayers are now paying will never have anything to do with any position of trust."

DUDLEY J. LEBLANC