St. Martin Police Jury
Not Enthusiastic On Curfew

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ST. MARTINVILLE — The St. Martin Parish Police Jury reacted less than enthusiastically to a request from some of the St. Martinville City Council members that a parish-wide curfew be established for businesses that sell alcoholic beverages.

At last night's meeting Police Jury meeting, City Councilman Zerben J. Champagne asked that the parish work with the city in establishing a uniform curfew throughout the parish.

"You represent the whole parish. If each city adopts an ordinance, we will still have the problem of bars being established outside of city limits. We want you to consider a parish-wide ordinance," Champagne said.

"It looks like you're passing the buck on to the Police Jury," said Jury member Thomas Nelson. "You didn't help us pass the one-cent parish tax."

"We are asking for your consideration, we're not passing the buck," St. Martinville City Councilman Murphy L. Simon responded. "The bar owners suggested that we consult with you before taking action. As City Council members, we are letting you know our feelings."

And Police Juror Simon Angelle Sr. said, "We are dealing with private enterprise. A curfew would be stepping into private business. I feel that the responsibility is not only with the bar owners, but with the Mamas and Papas whose children are out."

The Police Jury deferred any further discussion on the issue to the August 31 Inspection meeting.

Also at last night's meeting Representative V.J. Bella of Morgan City voiced complaints from some of his St. Martin parish constituents.

Bella said that residents of Belle River and Stephensville felt that they were not being represented well enough by the Police Jury. He asked that the Jury keep the Belle River area posted of action. Bella further requested that the Police Jury have one or two people in the area to take care of light maintenance.

"I know that it is hard to represent that portion of the parish because it is separated from this portion by two or three other parishes," Bella said.

However, Larry Duplantis, a spokesman for that area, told Bella, "The people of Belle River and Stevensville are satisfied. You have been talking to the people who live on Dawn Drive. They will not be happy unless we take care of the paving assessment." Bella denied that the Dawn Drive citizens were the people that he was talking about.

Duplantis said, "We are working to get the citizens of the Belle River area a new pontoon bridge."

Lloyd D. "Red" Higginbotham, Jury president, told Bella, "Those people get more than their share of revenues."

Duplantis then told Bella, "You give the impression that we don't represent Belle River and Stevensville. I wish the people that I represent on this side could get as much as the people in the Belle River area."

In other action, the Jury:
1. Voted to abandon the W.J. Duplantis Road;
2. Approved a change order for extending the hardsurfacing on the Four Mile Bayou Road;
3. Received bids on the sand and gravel; and
4. Accepted Ralph Caffery and Associates as the bridge engineer for the Bayou Milhomme Pontoon Bridge.