Two Superports Possible: Treen

NEW ORLEANS — Dave Treen Louisiana's Republican National Committeeman, today announced the possibility that two superports could be authorized for both Texas and Louisiana, instead of one.

Treen, speaking at a press conference in New Orleans Monday morning, revealed this information after a series of conferences and briefings with high Nixon administration officials in Washington, D.C., last week on the possibilities on locating the proposed superport off the Louisiana coast.

Treen, who was also kicking off his schedule of full-time campaigning for Louisiana's 3rd District congressional seat, said, "I am happy to have this opportunity to open up an important new line of communication between Louisiana and the federal government. My position as national committeeman, plus the possibility of my being the first Republican congressman from Louisiana in 100 years, has enabled me to open some important doors."

D.C. Meeting

Treen met in Washington last week with the team of federal officials who have been studying the proposed location in the Gulf of Mexico. These included Charles R. Ford, chief, Office of Civil Functions, Department of the Army; Brigadier General Kenneth Cooper, deputy director of civil works of the Corps of Engineers, and Gene P. Morrell, director of the Oil and Gas Office of the Department of the Interior.

Important facts about the superport status derived from these conversations, according to Treen, are:

- The engineers feel that the best location off the Louisiana coast is one directly off the mouth of Bayou Lafourche, which provides deep water with a degree of shelter.
- The primary competition for the Lafourche location is one off the coast of Texas near the mouth of the Sabine River.
- There is a possibility that two superports could be authorized for both the Texas and the Louisiana coast, instead of only one.
- The funds for construction of the superport would be generated by the state authority or private interests, and probably not by the federal government. The federal government does, however, control authorization of location of the superport.
- The next step in the superport decision will await a report from the Commission on Environmental Quality, which is scheduled to be completed by November.

Decision Procedure

"After that," said Treen, "and after the engineers' report, the final decision is to whether to have two superports or one, and if only one, as to whether that one should be off the Texas or Louisiana coast, will be made by the White House, and will be made on a political basis, within the limits of feasibility as recommended by the engineers and the environmental professionals. I am dedicating myself to the task of doing everything possible to improve Louisiana's communication with the Republican administration."

Treen said that the Louisiana Superport Commission should be given full credit for "a job well done." "The thorough research and the creation by the legislature of the Superport Authority have impressed the federal officials and, on merits alone, have given us the jump on Texas," said Treen.

"A superport located off Bayou Lafourche will be a major boom to the economy of Lafourche, Terrebonne, and all of the third district parishes. In another 15 to 20 years, according to Interior Department estimates, nearly half of the oil consumed in the United States will be imported in deep draft tankers, almost all of it through Gulf Coast ports," stated Treen.