

Millican Opens Office; Mrs. Jenness Raps Fees

By ALEX COFFIN

Ald. Everett Millican opened his downtown campaign headquarters Thursday with a promise to push for four police precinct stations if he is elected mayor.

Mrs. Linda Jenness, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor, earlier Thursday had called the setting of "outrageous fees" for qualifying by the aldermen, most of whom are running for office, "a public scandal." She threatened a law suit against the city.

Mrs. Jenness said an election with high fees (\$5,000 for mayor, \$1,400 for vice mayor, \$1,200 for alderman and \$600 for school board member) is undemocratic, "a fraud and a sham" and perpetuates the incumbents in office while barring low-income challengers.

Millican, flanked by friends and family, opened his headquarters at 135 Carnegie St. by saying he will recommend establishment of four precinct police stations, one in each quadrant of the city.

"Every city in the country larger than Atlanta has police precinct stations with one exception (San Antonio) ranging from 21 down to 5," Millican said.

"I believe this will do more to bring the police and the people of an area closer together than almost anything that can be done," he said.

(Police Chief Herbert Jenkins has said he favors more men rather than precinct stations.)

Millican said he would not tolerate police brutality, "but the police will be backed up in carrying out the law. We will see that everyone gets justice and is treated equally . . . I firmly believe that the great majority of citizens of Atlanta, black and white, are law abiding and they are not going to tolerate rabble-rousers or willing violations of the law," he said.

He promised again to help protect residential areas of the city from zoning changes that would alter the present patterns.

On the matter of storm sewers, Millican said the conditions are "deplorable" because the situation has been neglected in years past. He also stressed the need for a second airport, library expansion, a sound rapid transit system, financial stability, better race relations, elimination of poverty, a coliseum, improvement of housing and a consolidation of city-county government.

"I definitely feel that my years of service in the state Senate and my personal friendships with a large majority of

the members of the General Assembly is such that we can get legislation passed to give additional sources of income to the city. We have not done this in the past," he said.

Mrs. Jenness, at her press conference at her 187 14th St. headquarters, said her campaign program is being received well and "I believe appeals to a majority of the people."

On the matter of qualifying fees, she said, "I strongly condemn these exorbitant fees and demand that the Board of Aldermen abolish all the qualifying fees for the city elections at their next meeting."

She said the fees are discriminatory against qualified poor persons, place a large share of the burden for paying for the city elections on the candidates themselves, create a situation whereby office holders help to keep themselves in office and are out of line with fees in other cities.

"It is my view, as I am certain it is of a majority of people in Atlanta, that it is impossible to speak of democratic elections when an entire section of the population is barred from placing their own candidates on the ballot. The current elections are an insult to the working people and the black community of this city," she said.

Friday, July 18, 1969

The Atlanta Journal

Suit Threatened On Election Fees

By DREXEL BALL

Socialist mayoral candidate Linda Jenness says she will file suit against the City of Atlanta in an effort to abolish qualifying fees for the Oct. 7 elections.

Mrs. Jenness Thursday called the fees an "undemocratic and discriminate act" by the Board of Aldermen.

She said in a prepared statement, "I strongly condemn these exorbitant fees and demand that the Board of Aldermen abolish all the qualifying fees for the city elections."

The fees established July 7 call for mayoral candidates to pay a qualifying fee of \$5,000. The fees for other city candidates are \$1,400 for vice mayor; \$1,200 for alderman, and \$600 for school board member.

The fees city candidates will pay are the maximum permissible under a state statute enacted earlier this year.

THIS STATUTE says the fee to run for a given office cannot exceed the equivalent of salary

for two months in that office.

Mrs. Jenness said it is the responsibility of the city government to pay costs of the elections to insure an equal opportunity to all candidates to have a place on the ballot.

"The fees are discriminator against candidates from those sections of the population least able to pay them," she said.

She said further that the fee hit hardest those candidates who launch campaigns independent of the Democratic and Republican parties and as a result they are barred from the ballot.

"The manner in which the fees are set by the Board of Aldermen creates a situation where those in office are in the position of helping to keep themselves in office," Mrs. Jenness declared.

SHE POINTED out that of the 16 incumbent aldermen at least 13 will be running in the city election.

She charged the present city government is a "businessmen's and bankers' government."

The qualifying fees are to be paid during the week of Aug. 26.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION WRITE:

SOCIALIST WORKERS CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE
BOX 7817, Atlanta, Georgia 30309