

Fourth innocent plea entered in Brilab case

United Press International
 NEW ORLEANS — The right-hand man to former Louisiana Gov. Edwin Edwards Wednesday pleaded innocent to charges in the Brilab investigation and demanded they be dismissed because of prejudicial news leaks by government officials.

Charles E. Roemer II, who served Edwards as commissioner of administration, entered the innocent plea before U.S. Magistrate Ingard O. Johannesen, who set a tentative trial date for July 28. Roemer was released on \$35,000 bond.

But Roemer's attorney, Michael Fawer, filed a motion to dismiss the conspiracy, racketeering and fraud charges because of "egregious governmental misconduct" in releasing details of the investigation to the press.

If the court refuses to dismiss the charges, Fawer asked that all persons who made the leaks be held in contempt of court.

Roemer joined reputed mobs-

ter Carlos Marcello and two other defendants who pleaded innocent Tuesday. All four were indicted last week after a year-long FBI undercover investigation of possible payoffs and corruption in the labor and insurance fields.

Fawer's 16-page motion for dismissal asked for an immediate hearing on whether Roemer could get a fair trial.

"Selected highly prejudicial and improper disclosures to the press... have rendered any further criminal proceedings against defendant Roemer fundamentally unfair," the motion said.

"Such egregious governmental misconduct, which by necessity engendered unfair, prejudicial preindictment and pretrial publicity, is a blatant violation of defendant Roemer's due process rights."

The motion included newspaper clippings and a television news script with information on Brilab from unnamed FBI sources. Assistant U.S. Attorney Al Winters said prosecutors would re-

spond to the motion at a later hearing.

Johannesen restricted Roemer's travel to the continental United States. Roemer had asked that he be allowed to travel out of Louisiana on business.

Roemer, 57, described himself as a self-employed cotton farmer and co-owner of a Baton Rouge financial business consulting firm. As top administrative aid to Edwards for terms, Roemer was the main power broker in the Capitol and controlled lucrative state insurance and computer contracts.

He faces a maximum of 60 years in jail and \$54,000 in fines if convicted on all counts.

Roemer is accused of receiving \$25,000 from Joseph Hauser, an undercover FBI informant, in exchange for using his influence to obtain a lucrative state insurance contract for a fictitious company.

Roemer said the money was received as a contribution for the governor's campaign of Edgar "Sonny" Mouton. Roemer served as Mouton's campaign manager.

45 percent could decide race

Reagan after independents

United Press International
 AUSTIN — Republican Ronald Reagan will direct much of his campaigning in Texas at conservative Democrats, independents and "ticket-splitters" between now and November, Gov. Bill Clements says.

Clements, designated Tuesday as Reagan's Texas campaign chairman, said the independents or "ticket-splitters" could make the difference in the presidential race in the state.

"Our polls show about 20 percent of the voters are declared Republicans, 35 percent are Democrats and 45 percent who say they are ticket-splitters or independents, and that's where this election is," Clements said.

"Governor Reagan has an enormous appeal to these independent voters, and there is no question that an extremely important part of our campaign."

Clements also told reporters, "You would be amazed at the enthusiasm among Democrats for Governor Reagan."

The governor said Republicans are prepared to spend \$2 million in

Texas to help Reagan carry the state over President Carter in November.

He said \$1.5 million of the campaign funds will be raised in Texas, and another \$500,000 will come from Reagan's national campaign treasury.

The bulk of the former California governor's television advertising will be paid for by the national campaign, although Ernest Angelo of Midland, Reagan's Texas campaign manager, said there will be some television ads prepared specifically to appeal to Texas voters.

"We will have a very broad-based campaign and will have a high emphasis and thrust toward Democrats," Clements told a news conference. "I have no doubt in my mind that Governor Reagan not only will carry Texas, but will be the next president of the United States."

"This will be a vigorous campaign, and we are confident we will unite all factions of Texas and will conduct a campaign that will appeal to all Texans."

Clements said Reagan will rely heavily on volunteers in the Texas

campaign, and said he expects 25,000 to 30,000 volunteers to be working for Reagan from September through the election.

Although Clements has been mentioned as a possible running mate for Reagan, he said Tuesday he does not think he will be chosen for that position and has no preference on who Reagan should choose.

"I don't have any opinion in this regard," he said. "This is solely Governor Reagan's decision and it should be based solely on who can help him win and help him carry out his strategy and what the trust of the campaign will be."

Angelo, who headed Reagan's Texas campaign in 1976, will serve as deputy campaign chairman and campaign manager this year. Rick Shelby, now a regional political director for the national Reagan campaign, will become campaign director for Texas.

Houston eyes Ellington field

United Press International
 HOUSTON — The Houston City Council Tuesday approved a \$75,000 study to help decide whether acquiring Ellington Air Force Base would help alleviate the heavy air traffic at Hobby Airport.

The study will inventory base facilities, discover what air traffic could be absorbed by Ellington if it becom-

es a city airport, include a capital improvement plan with cost estimates, and determine the practicality of Ellington being a part of the city airport system.

Houston Mayor Jim McConn said he hopes the city would use Ellington for general aviation and cargo operations.

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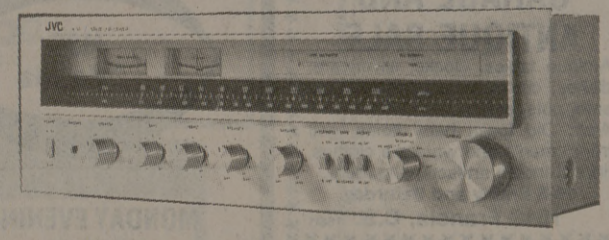
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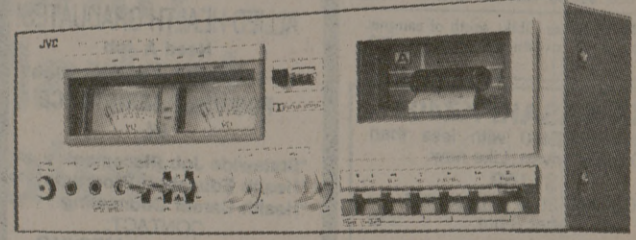
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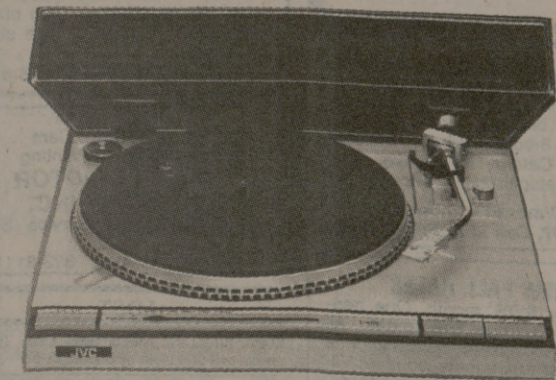
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