

Partly Cloudy 
A 50% chance of rain today. Lows low 70s, highs low 90s. Variable winds 10 m.p.h. Map, date 2-A.

St. Petersburg Times

Florida's Best Newspaper

A.R.A. Pub. Since 1888
AM RADIO
ALSO IN PM
OFFICE CASHIER & QUANTITY DISCOUNT
CENTRAL GARAGE, INC.
54915
211-34 Ave. S. 822-4125

VOL. 83 — NO. 34 88 PAGES ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA, TUESDAY, AUGUST 17, 1976 15 CENTS A COPY

2 TIMES ■ TUESDAY, AUGUST 17, 1976

editorial

richard morgan, editor 

Pittman is best for Circuit Court clerk

JED PITTMAN

Pasco County will have a new clerk of the Circuit Court next January.

Incumbent Clerk Miller Newton is giving up his stewardship of the office to seek election to the U.S. House of Representatives. He has instituted numerous improvements during his three years in the clerk's office and has greatly modernized the operation. He is an able public servant, and we regret to

see him leave county government, although we can understand his desire to move up the political ladder.

Democratic voters will have a choice of three candidates for the clerk's office when they go to the polls in the Sept. 7 primary. The winner will face Republican G. Frank Parker Jr., who is unopposed for his party's nomination, in the November general election.

Of the three Democrats; we believe that Joseph E. "Jed" Pittman clearly is the best candidate, and we recommend his nomination.

our opinion

Mr. Pittman's background is law enforcement. He started his career as a Clearwater policeman,



JED PITTMAN

then was a deputy sheriff in Collier County and later an investigator for the Pasco-Pinellas State Attorney's office. More recently he was director of the Pasco County Department of Consumer Affairs. He also serves as chairman of the Pasco County Criminal Justice Advisory Board.

Ideally, a candidate for the clerk's job should have a solid background in office management and finance.

Although Mr. Pittman does not have extensive experience in either area, he has other attributes that we feel make him a much better nominee than either of his opponents — Doris Cook and Kenneth W. Thompson.

Mr. Pittman is level-headed, conscientious, personable, has a sound general knowledge of county government and intends to make a career in public service in Pasco County.

His special familiarity with the criminal justice system would be quite helpful in the clerk's office, with the responsibility of keeping all court records.

We believe he could overcome his lack of expertise in finance and administration by employing capable assistants trained in these areas.

We also believe that he would work harmoniously with other constitutional officers, while at the same time exercising his responsibility to act as a check on the spending practices of these officials.

We urge Pasco Democrats to give Jed Pittman their nomination for clerk of the Circuit Court.

(The Pasco Times invites Mrs. Cook and Mr. Thompson to respond to our recommendation by a letter of approximately 250 words maximum. These letters must be received in our office by Thursday, Aug. 19, they will be published before the Sept. 7 primary.)