

Garrison's Top Aide Quits To Challenge Boss at Polls

By JACK DEMPSEY

First Asst. Dist. Atty. Charles R. Ward resigned today and announced his intention of running for district attorney against incumbent Jim Garrison.

Ward said he and Garrison have "violently disagreed" on several recent policy decisions.

Ward, who earlier had denied he would be a candidate against his boss because of "loyalty," said today he feels Garrison was not loyal to him. Ward said he believes loyalty should be a two-way street proposition.

HE SAID Garrison promised to intercede in his behalf with Gov. John J. McKeithen for appointment to one of two

newly created Criminal District Court judgeships.

Ward said that Garrison informed him yesterday that he had withdrawn his recommendation. Ward said he learned that Garrison has substituted another name.

Assistant District Attorney Alvin J. Oser has been mentioned as being Garrison's first choice for one of the judgeships.

WARD REVEALED that an officer of a bail-bonding company has accused him of accepting bribes. He said Garrison told him he knew the accusation to be false.

Ward made unsuccessful attempts last night and again this morning to have the detector tests made which he said

would prove the accusations are false.

"Garrison," he said, "has told me he knows they (the accusations) are false. Yet based on this alone, Garrison has withdrawn my nomination for judge of the Criminal District Court—not because he has believed them—but because he feels they are embarrassing to him in his campaign for reelection."

REGARDING HIS decision to run against Garrison in the upcoming city election, Ward asserted:

"I feel that a man who does not back his employees when they need support is no longer entitled to my support or loyalty. For this reason I have no hesitation about qual-



CHARLES R. WARD

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ifying against him and seeking the office of district attorney."

Ward said he will seek a grand jury probe of the bribe accusation.

Ward gave this account:

Depositions were taken from three persons, all of them bail bonding company officials, in connection with the allegation.

THE DEPOSITIONS were made before a public stenotypist in March.

The allegation was to the effect that money was sent by check to a local bail bond firm.

An official of this firm allegedly cashed the checks and turned over cash sums to a local attorney. This attorney, in turn, allegedly turned the money over to Ward.

THE MONEY ostensibly was to be used to influence Ward to hold back the collection of the forfeitures. In the depositions it was admitted by one of the officials that the "desired results" never were obtained.

Ward declined to take an active part in the conspiracy investigation into the death of President John F. Kennedy.

He was not a member of the DA's staff in the case against Clay L. Shaw, who was charged by Garrison with plotting the Kennedy assassination. Shaw was acquitted in a trial last winter.

WARD TOLD close associates that he could not in "good faith" take part in an investigation and trial in which he did not believe.

Ward stayed on in the

DA's office with the assurance of Garrison that he was Garrison's choice for one of the two new judgeships.

Withdrawal of nomination by Garrison was the straw which broke the camel's back.

PRIOR TO HIS balking at the Kennedy investigation Ward enjoyed supreme control of the office, actively handling and spearheading investigations into rackets, such as "loan shark" operations.

He served as chief advisor to the Orleans Parish Grand Jury until recent months.

Prior to becoming first assistant DA he prosecuted cases in several sections of Criminal District Court, including the courts presided over by Judges Edward A. Haggerty Jr., Oliver P. Schulingkamp and Malcolm V. O'Hara.

He often has been rumored as a potential candidate for councilman at large and for the state Senate.

HE SAID HE turned down support for nomination in the Senate race at the insistence of Garrison, who told him he could be assured of getting one of the judgeships.

With Ward's public announcement of his intention of running for the DA's spot it now appears that the race will be a wide-open affair.

Garrison has announced his decision to seek re-election.

HARRY CONNICK, an assistant federal district attorney and a former Legal Aid attorney in the Criminal Courts building, is expected to announce his candidacy at the end of this month, when he resigns his federal post.

Ross Scaccia, a former Garrison assistant, has asserted publicly that he will be a candidate, and William Schu-

ler, former assistant DA and currently an assistant in the state attorney's general's office, also has been mentioned prominently as a political candidate.

There have been reports that Gov. McKeithen will make the judgeship appointments tomorrow.

Ward issued this statement:

"Today I have submitted my resignation to Jim Garrison. I am resigning the office of chief assistant district attorney to campaign for the office of district attorney. There are many reasons for my decision.

"First, I am better qualified to be district attorney than Jim Garrison or any other person in this city. I have run the office for the past six years while Garrison has investigated and tried only one case — Clay Shaw — which he lost. Garrison's record during the past eight years is won none, lost one.

"**SECONDLY, I HAVE** recently had very serious policy disagreements with Garrison. We have violently disagreed on several of his recent decisions.

"He has informed me that he will not enforce any ob-

scenity legislation including the recent acts of the legislature. I am for strong law enforcement of those laws against pornography and smut which have been flooding this city.

"Also, Garrison recently overruled my decision to arrest students at Southern University for interfering with the police in resisting arrest. After I advised the police to make arrests of all persons involved in the riot, Garrison met with representatives of

the black militants and capitulated to their demands and agreed to charge only six of the 26 persons arrested. He has further promised these six they would never spend one day in jail. I am against capitulation which I feel will only bring anarchy.

"GARRISON ALSO recently overruled my orders to arrest members of the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) for the demonstrations at Fortier High School. He has expressed sympathy for their revolt against the establishment and has recently said, 'No university is being burned which should not be burned.' These are just a few of the many major disagreements we have had.

"Ordinarily I would hesitate to run for any office currently sought by my employer because of my feeling of loyalty. This loyalty may indeed be a fault, but I believe if you work for a man you should be loyal to him. But Garrison has not been loyal to me or other members of his staff. He has not backed me when I needed his support, and loyalty is not a one-way street.

"Recently an officer of a

bail bonding company accused me of accepting bribes. I am now making public these depositions which were secured by Garrison's former law partners, Deutsch, Kerrigan and Stiles. These affidavits made by William Hardy Davis, who has been charged in Criminal Court, are demonstrably and obviously false. Garrison has told me he knows they are false. Yet, based on this alone, Garrison has withdrawn my nomination for judge of the Criminal District Court — not because he feels they are embarrassing to him in his campaign for reelection.

"I feel that a man who does not back his employees when they need support is no longer entitled to my support or loyalty. For this reason I have no hesitation about qualifying against him and seeking the office of district attorney."