

# Garrison Is Defeated in Democratic Primary for New

By ROY REED

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NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 16—Jim Garrison's luck ran out yesterday. He was defeated for a fourth term as district attorney in the Democratic primary. It was one of the closest election contests in the city's history.

The victor was Harry F. Connick, a reform-minded lawyer who first tried to unseat Mr. Garrison four years ago.

The unofficial returns, with only one precinct unreported, showed Mr. Connick winning with a margin of fewer than 2,000 votes, 64,454 to 62,629.

Because of tension and suspicion in the two camps, the police took the unprecedented

step of guarding the voting machines through the night last night. The official count will not be made until Tuesday, but it seems unlikely that Mr. Garrison will be able to reverse the outcome.

Mr. Connick will face an independent, City Councilman Eddie Sapir, and a Republican, William Mora, in the general election March 5.

The massed strength of the New Orleans financial establishment was required to defeat Mr. Garrison. Mr. Connick's campaign was exceptionally well-financed and well-organized. Mr. Garrison said his opponent was spending \$250,000, and that was never denied. Mr. Garrison said his

own campaign expenses had been about \$20,000. The job pays \$27,000.

Mr. Connick, who is 48 years old, put together an organization of 5,000 volunteers, half of whom worked in an effective telephone brigade to get out the vote on a cold, rainy day.

With all that, Mr. Garrison and his hip-pocket campaign—disorganized, with virtually no staff, and with much of it conducted in bars, restaurants and lodge halls as the candidate bought drinks and told jokes—came within a hair of retaining the office he first won as a reform candidate in 1962.

Mr. Garrison, 52, became internationally known in the aftermath of the assassination

of President Kennedy when he said that Mr. Kennedy had been killed by a group of conspirators, not by one man, and that the conspiracy had been hatched in New Orleans.

He pursued that investigation for years and finally brought to trial one New Orleans man, Clay Shaw, a respected businessman. Mr. Shaw won acquittal easily.

Louisiana politics has always been bizarre and it simply did not seem remarkable to many people here when Mr. Garrison told them that Mr. Kennedy had been the victim of a power play conceived by the Central Intelligence Agency.

When Mr. Garrison stood for a third term shortly after los-

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ing the Shaw prosecution, it seemed to outsiders that he would surely be defeated. But, with Mr. Connick as his chief opponent, he won again easily.

His winning coalition since the mid-nineteen-sixties was one that the late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. always dreamed of but never achieved: blacks and blue-collar whites. That coalition was possible here, as it would not have been elsewhere in the South, because of a large Roman Catholic population. White Catholic longshoremen and truck drivers were as outraged by the death of John Kennedy as were black people, and Mr. Garrison was seen as trying to avenge the President's murder.

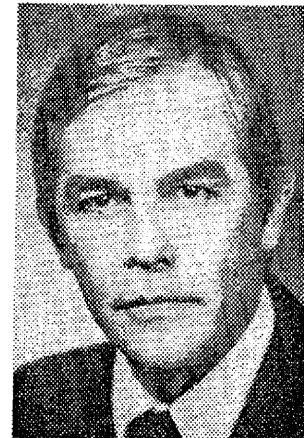
It appeared for a while that the coalition would hold again this year. But circumstance overtook it.

Mr. Garrison had to stand trial last summer on a Federal charge of taking bribes from pinball machine operators. The Government produced what it thought was an airtight case, complete with a witness who testified that he had carried money to the district attorney and had recorded their conversations on tape. But Mr. Garrison, portraying himself as a target of a conspiratorial Federal Government determined to silence him, won acquittal from a hometown jury.

The trial probably hurt, nevertheless. He also apparent-



Jim Garrison



Harry F. Connick

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ly became the victim of his policy of leniency toward blacks charged with crimes,

which had once cemented his relations with the black community.