

Garrison Tries Comeback In Louisiana Court Race

By ROY REED

Special to The New York Times

NEW ORLEANS, Aug. 3—Jim Garrison, the former New Orleans District Attorney who was defeated last year, is attempting a comeback in a race for the State Supreme Court.

In southern Louisiana, the Garrison race has overshadowed all other contests in the Aug. 17 Democratic primary, including the easygoing reelection efforts of Senator Russell B. Long and several powerful Louisiana Congressmen.

Neither Mr. Long nor any of the senior Representatives has serious primary opposition, although the state's only Republican Congressman, Representative David C. Treen, faces a serious contest in the November general election. His Democratic opponent is Charles Grisbaum, an energetic state representative who hopes to capitalize on inflation and rising food prices.

Mr. Garrison, who tried to prove that President Kennedy's assassination was the result of a conspiracy, is opposing an incumbent justice, Pascal F. Calogero, also of New Orleans, and another challenger, Sheriff Alwynn J. Cronvich of nearby Jefferson Parish (county). The vote is expected to be close. All three have powerful sources of support.

Mr. Garrison is the best known of the three. He has many friends among working-class whites and blacks.

Landrieu's Support

Mr. Calogero is known as a liberal on the court. He has the strong backing of his former law partner, Mayor Moon Landrieu of New Orleans.

Mr. Cronvich is backed by "law and order" advocates and such conservatives as the political heirs of the late Leander Perez, the long-time political leader of Plaquemines Parish. The justice is elected from a district that includes New Orleans and the surrounding area.

As usual, no one with a real chance of winning has challenged any of the powers of Louisiana politics—Senator Long, son of the late Huey P. Long and chairman of the Senate Finance Committee; Representative F. Edward Hébert of New Orleans, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee and a fixture in Congress since 1940; Representative Otto E. Passman of Monroe, a senior member of the Appropriations Committee, and Representative Joe D. Waggonner of Plain Dealing, near Shreveport, who has emerged as a leader of the

shrinking but still substantial bloc of Southern Democratic conservatives in the House.

Mr. Long, Mr. Hébert and Mr. Passman drew minor opposition. Mr. Waggonner has none. Neither has another long-time Louisiana political figure, Representative Gillis Long. Mrs. Lindy Boggs, who was elected to the House to succeed her late husband, Hale Boggs, is running for re-election against two obscure candidates.

Problems for Rarick

Representative John Rarick, a segregationist whose district includes Baton Rouge, Louisiana State University and the giant Humble Oil and Refining Company, is the only Democratic Congressman in the state believed to have any cause for concern.

His opponents are a Baptist minister, the Rev. Ramsey D. Gilchrist, and two hard-working young campaigners, Greg Eaton, the son of a former state representative, and Jeff LaCaze, a television news announcer.

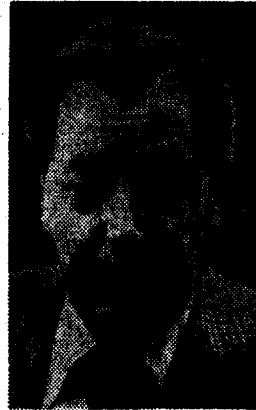
Senator Long's chief opponent is Sherman A. Bernard of the New Orleans suburb of Westwego. Mr. Bernard is a house mover who won election as the state insurance commissioner two years ago by exploiting resentment over rising insurance premiums.

Mr. Bernard has a limited political base. While he appears on radio talk shows and makes an occasional speech to a small group, Mr. Long reaffirms old associations with courthouse officials and addresses large, influential organizations such as the Farm Bureau Federation.

The Senator's second opponent is Mrs. Annie A. Smart, a black mother of 13 who is the Southern director of the Welfare Rights Organization. Mrs. Smart is well-known in the government agencies of Baton Rouge, where she lives. Using wit and anger, she harasses bureaucrats to get benefits for welfare recipients.

"We've never been able to negotiate with Russell," she recently told a Baton Rouge interviewer. "So my job as South regional representative is to give him as much hell as possible. Now, the best way is to run against him and take some of his votes."

Perhaps in acknowledgement of her candidacy, Mr. Long told a New Orleans reporter recently that he would like to see a tax break for those who employ persons who otherwise would be on welfare.



Associated Press

Jim Garrison

The main themes of his campaign, however, have been reiteration of his interest in agriculture, oil, shipbuilding, shrimping and other Louisiana industries. He also has spoken of the need for campaign financing reform. He introduced a bill in the Senate this week to impose a 100 per cent tax on loan interests over 10 per cent.