

AP 12/17/73
Garrison Loses

Re-Election Bid

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Voting machines were under police guard Sunday pending official count, but apparently Jim Garrison's tempestuous career as New Orleans district attorney is over.

After a night of confusion and recounts, the police-manned election center said Harry Connick, a handsome and well-heeled challenger, drew 64,454 votes to Garrison's 62,620, a margin of 1,834.

Police Supt. Clarence Giarrusso said all candidates accepted the unofficial total pending the official canvass Tuesday.

Garrison, 52, was nowhere to be seen on election night, leaving his motel campaign headquarters to fend for itself.

At the Rivergate, a convention center, Connick, 48, circulated tensely through well-dressed supporters who crowded the north hall.

A raw and rainy Saturday helped reduce the turnout in the election, which saw the triumph of a carefully organized and computerized campaign over Garrison's rumpled and casual style.

In addition, the 6-foot-4 district attorney carried political handicaps laid on by his bribery trial in U.S. District Court three months ago, even though he was acquitted, and by a lingering backlash from his 1967-69 investigation of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.