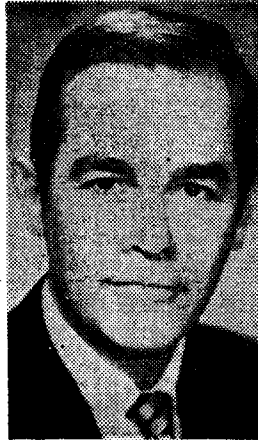


CONNICK MAKES ENTRY OFFICIAL

10/2/69
Formally Announces for
District Attorney Race



HARRY CONNICK

Attorney Harry Connick has formally announced his candidacy for the office of district attorney in the Nov. 8 Democratic primary.

In his formal statement, the former assistant U.S. attorney in New Orleans said:

"Our major concerns in New Orleans are crime and the failure of the district attorney to prosecute acts of violence, corruption and theft. Therefore, as a candidate for that office, I am formally announcing my program of specific solutions.

"In the homes, in the streets and in the courts, the people's safety must be our highest regard; to ensure that safety we need a responsible district attorney who will provide honest and full time leadership. I can provide that leadership.

"The problem areas which must be directly attacked are crime in the streets, organized crime, the rehabilitation of youth and the bail-bond and parole system that keeps the poor and the naive in jails and frees the professional criminal.

"In addition, I will eliminate a lazy prosecuting system that ties up prospective jurors and witnesses for days on end; and I will eliminate the image of corruption which has so harmed our economy.

"Here is my program of direct solution:

"I. CRIME IN THE STREETS: No criminal wants a speedy trial. The surest deterrent to crime is quick arrest and prosecution.

"And the only way to realize a speedy trial system is to recruit and use a staff of competent and dedicated attorneys.

"My staff will be recruited strictly on the basis of citizenship and ability and without regard to political favoritism or social background.

"Swift prosecution has been dangerously absent from Jim Garrison's office. Long trial delays and low bail bonds for pro-

fessional criminals has increased our crime rate to nearly crisis proportions. Too frequently our police have arrested the same criminal two, three and four times only to see him again jump bond and avoid prosecution.

"Robbers, burglars, loan sharks, big-time bookies, obscene literature pushers and check artists go unprosecuted and unpunished. They do their business without fear of jail.

"My speedy trial system will prevent professional criminals from returning immediately to the streets. They will be removed to Angola.

"II. ORGANIZED CRIME: This system of protection for criminals and intimidation of honest businessmen can be met head-on by a program of legislation, information-sharing with other law agencies, and prosecution for state offenses.

"Every law enforcement agency in this area recognizes that organized crime exists in New Orleans. It is a system whereby bribed officials owe their services to the criminals who pay them off, and not to the people.

"Bookmaking and gambling operate out of here on a national scale. Narcotics pushers come regularly from out of state to sell to our youth. This causes the 2,000 addicts of our city to resort to burglary, robbery, shoplifting, bad check writing, and theft to get the money they need to buy their supply of dope from the out-of-

state peddler. The big pushers are rarely convicted here.

"Loan sharking continues in many areas, depriving our citizens of much needed income. Loan sharking often causes hapless employees of private business to borrow at usurious interest rates to pay off a gambling debt or to meet some financial crisis at home. This is usually the first stop in getting the employee to participate in some other activity, such as warehouse theft or theft from shipments of merchandise.

"I will establish an organized crime squad and staff it with attorneys and investigators who will work exclusively in this area.

"The evidence my office gathers on organized crime will be exchanged with other local, state and federal agencies.

"I also will request new legislation to increase the penalties for gambling activities of an organized crime nature, such as the layoff system. The crime squad will keep the city informed about syndicate activity here, thus allowing our mayor and council to better cope with the problem.

"Such an attack will rid this city of its image as a nest for criminal bosses, an image that hurts our economy. It will prevent the seizure of businesses by the blackmailing tactics of the syndicate. And it will reduce the availability of narcotics to addicts and teenagers.

"III. BAIL-BONDS: In June of this year we learned of the

complete breakdown in the collection of bail-bond forfeitures. Over \$1 million remains uncollected; more than 1,100 criminals went free. This problem can be eliminated by direct solution.

"First, I will recommend realistic bail bonds that will guarantee the presence of the defendant in court. It is the function of the judge to set the amount of the bail bond. But it is the DUTY of the district attorney to recommend an appropriate bond and to inform the judge of the criminal background of the accused.

"When a defendant fails to show up in court, his bond will be immediately forfeited—and collected. A constant check will be made to determine what bonding companies are writing bonds. The total amount of bonds written by any one company should never be allowed to exceed the amount that that company has on deposit with the State Treasurer, which is \$70,000.

"I will invite the City Auditor to conduct regular audits to guarantee that all bond forfeitures are being collected on a current basis.

"Additionally, I will seek legislation which will make installment-bail-bonding a criminal offense.

"Such a procedure will prevent a recurrence of the present bail bond mess. Professional criminals will be unable to make low bonds on the installment plan. The practice of committing one, two or three crimes while on bond will be eliminated.

"No longer will our undermanned police force be required to arrest the same man because the incumbent district attorney failed to perform his duties.

IV. REHABILITATION: Youth can be saved. I will concentrate on helping youthful offenders where the offense is minor and the offender is without previous record.

"He or she would be placed on active, supervised probation and be given guidance counseling.

"I have used this program successfully as an assistant U.S. attorney. It is worth a try, for our children's sake.

V. PAROLE AND PARDON: I will use the prestige of

my office to give Louisiana a full-time, professional Pardon Board and Parole Board. Professional criminals should remain in jail until they are equipped to return to the community.

"I will maintain a constant check to prevent premature releases, that we've seen so many of in the past eight years.

"The deferred prosecution program, a full time Parole Board and Pardon Board, youth rehabilitation, and the watchdog approach to prison releases should, I feel, work toward a safer city.

VI. EDUCATION: In spite of determined efforts by the New Orleans Police Department, our policemen still need to be better informed on the constantly changing criminal law. Failure to inform them results in criminals going free because of improper procedures.

"The youth, too, should be educated on the dangers of marijuana, narcotics and other offenses which they fail to take seriously.

VII. CONSIDERATION FOR THE PEOPLE: Lazy procedures in the district attorney's office too often have resulted in prospective witnesses and jurors undergoing worse hardships than criminals. They take days off from their businesses and work to wait in court and wait and wait and finally to be told the trial is postponed.

"In the U.S. attorney's office, we used a system of 'sounding the docket' to learn which trials were postponed and witnesses and jurors were informed accordingly so that they didn't have to appear futilely in court and waste their days.

"This announcement would not be complete and I would be remiss if I did not mention that the reputation and image of a city is evidenced by the caliber, character and integrity of its public officials.

"The present district attorney has produced an image of this city that reflects not 'The City that Care Forgot' but the city that just hasn't cared about

the fair and impartial administration of justice.

"We have seen the abuse of due process, fair trial, the vindictive and retaliatory use of the indictment and bill of information, screaming headlines designed to satisfy the personal thirst of the accuser and to smear the reputation of innocent people. One who so misuses the power of his office is unfit to hold that office.

"My specific solutions are realistic and workable. This is what a real district attorney should do. The question this community should ask itself is: Are we ready for a real D.A.?

Cornick, a lifelong resident of New Orleans, is a World War II combat veteran.

He was awarded a bachelor of business administration degree from Loyola University, and received his bachelor of laws degree from Tulane University in 1961. His postgraduate studies include a criminal law seminar at Northwestern University Law School in Chicago, and criminology at Louisiana State University in New Orleans.

PRIVATE PRACTICE

From 1961 to 1965 he engaged in the private practice of law, both civil and criminal, in state and federal courts, doing both trial and appellate work.

From 1962 to 1965, he served as an attorney in the criminal division of the New Orleans Legal Aid Bureau, representing indigent defendants.

In 1964, he was made attorney in charge of the criminal division.

He established, together with Dr. Maurice Campagna, a procedure for the New Orleans Health Department's Bureau of Tuberculosis quarantine violators.

From 1965 to 1969, he served as an assistant United States attorney in the United States Attorney's Office, Eastern District of Louisiana, New Orleans.

In 1968, he was promoted to chief of the criminal division. In this capacity, he supervised seven assistant attorneys and six secretaries. He achieved a successful record of prosecution in narcotics, tax, mail fraud and bank embezzling cases.

He has been commended for successful prosecution by Federal Bureau of Investigation

Director J. Edgar Hoover. He served as 1965-66 president of the Criminal Courts Bar Association. He was a lecturer on a 1967 program on Criminal Law of the New Orleans Bar Association, and a member of its committee to study new legislation the same year.

OTHER HONORS

Other honors include an award for sustained superior performance while an assistant United States attorney, and a certificate of merit from the Division of Continuing Education of the Louisiana State University in recognition of an outstanding program in the Law Enforcement Training Program.

Cornick is a member of the New Orleans, Louisiana, Criminal Courts, American and Federal Bar associations.

His publications include "Defense of the Poor in Criminal Cases in American State Courts" (1965), prepared for the American Bar Foundation; "The Motion to Suppress Evidence," for the Criminal Bar Journal (1965), and "Searches and Seizure-Automobiles," for the 1966 Law Enforcement Handbook.

He served as guest lecturer at the LSU Law Enforcement Training Program, 1967-69.

Cornick organized and participated in a law enforcement training program (1967-1969) presented by the U.S. Attorney's Office to teach and explain to non-federal law enforcement agents recent U.S. Supreme Court rulings and their relation to non-federal law enforcement activities.

He lectured before the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office, 1967 and 1968 on Arrest and Search and Seizure.

He and his wife, Anita, a practicing attorney, have two children and live in the 17th Ward.

Cornick also has business experience. He owned and operated Studio A records shop in Lakeview and Gentilly from 1954 to 1962 while attending Loyola and Tulane.

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