

Sertoma Club Is Told of Youth in Dope Cases

Harry Connick, labeling District Attorney Jim Garrison "The Great Accuser," Friday recounted what he called Garrison's "irrational behavior" before the celebrated Clay L. Shaw trial.

Connick also told the Sertoma Club at the Rault Center of the case of Ronald Wayne McGill, 25, who was arrested on seven different counts of possessing or selling marijuana, yet was allowed by Garrison to skip his bail bond on each offense, has never been brought to trial and since has disappeared.

Connick is a candidate for district attorney.

Speaking of Garrison's conduct in office, Connick said, "Let's go back to 1962 when he charged his predecessor, Richard Dowling, one of Dowling's assistants, and the late Judge (Bernard) Cocks. Then the whole State Legislature, though not charged, was accused by Mr. Garrison of being crooked for failing to pass a bail bond law that Mr. Garrison wanted. The vote was 100-to-1. This is hardly the actions of a responsible leader.

"He had the open hearing on five parole members. This was a gross miscarriage of justice and an inquisition. These parole board members were subjected to all sorts of leading questions. The lawyers for the five board members couldn't even cross-examine the figures involved.

"It got so bad that the Supreme Court laid down some basic guidelines. When they were handed down, Mr. Garrison closed up his briefcase and walked out. If he couldn't persecute these people the way he had been doing for several days, he wasn't going to have anything to do with it at all. But this has been going on for years.

"He said the judges—all judges—were racket-controlled and vacation-minded, particularly the criminal district court judges at Tulane and Broad.

"When the judges went down the street, people would say, 'Moo, Cow.' But those are the men who sit on your district court bench and judge guilt or innocence. This is something that is precious and shouldn't be ridiculed.

"If a man is wrong, whether or not he be a judge, charge him and prosecute him, and convict him and send him to jail. But don't smear him in the newspapers. Don't say things you can't prove.

"And Garrison had a chance to prove his allegations, but sat in court when he was a defendant. I know very well when a man is a defendant in criminal court he doesn't have to take the stand, but he was a man who said the judges were racketeer controlled. But when the time came for him to take the stand, he sat there, he didn't say one word to substantiate his false accusations. He is the great accuser.

"You know the one conviction he got? He convicted Dean Andrews for perjury."

Connick said McGill was actually arrested eight times between April 6, 1967, and March 28, 1968. Seven times he was charged with possessing or selling narcotics. The other time he was arrested for systematically stealing \$8,195 from a 7-11 Store where he was employed.

McGill was first arrested April 7, 1967, on the theft charge, said Connick, and bail was made at \$1,500. He was arrested July 18, 1967, for possession of 13 matchboxes of marijuana and was released on \$2,500 bond.

Again McGill was arrested Feb. 21, 1968, on three counts of selling marijuana to police undercover agents and a fourth count of possessing narcotics. Bail on the three counts was set at \$5,000, \$1,000 and \$3,000. Bail on the possession count was \$1,000.

Finally, he was rearrested March 22, 1968, for possession of marijuana and made bond of \$2,500, and March 28, 1968, six days later, he was arrested once more for possession of marijuana and bond was set at \$1,000.

"It is amazing how Mr. Garrison allows lower bail bonds to be set the more offenses a man commits," Connick told Sertomans. "And it is even more amazing that we have a DA who will not crack down on an accused marijuana peddler when we know that sellers of drugs prey in particular on our young people."

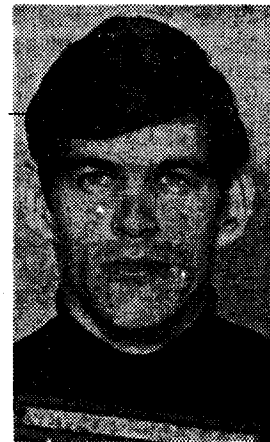
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RONALD WAYNE M'GILL