

All Opponents Qualified, Garrison Tells Demos

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Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison, an unexpected latecomer to a meeting of the Mid-City Democrats last night, said, "Everyone of my opponents is qualified for district attorney."

When the meeting began at an office of James E. Comiskey, First District assessor, at 441 S. Jefferson Davis Pkwy., Comiskey said Garrison was ill with a back problem.

The district attorney arrived during a talk by the final speaker of the night, DA candidate Harry Connick, who said Garrison had abused the power of the DA's office for seven and a half years and cited cases which he said illustrated "gross abuse and misuse."

GARRISON DENIED the charge, explaining, "We've tried to build a good office and steadily improve it."

Connick, a former U.S. attorney, said, "Just because I have the endorsements of John Petre and Moon Landrieu (mayoral candidates) and the New Orleans States-Item and The Times-Picayune doesn't mean I'm not independent."

Another DA candidate, Ross T. Scaccia, said he knows "who the big bookmakers (in New Orleans) are and I know that the present DA hasn't convicted these people." The city's problems also include murder, rape, armed robbery and burglary, he said.

"AS YOUR DA, I'll do something about them," Scaccia said. He said he is the only candidate who has been an assistant Orleans Parish district attorney, an assistant U.S. attorney and a defense attorney.

Charles R. Ward, former as-

sistant DA under Garrison, said, "The Shaw trial is history and I think we should forget it."

Ward said, "I don't understand this city. If I talk about the issues, nobody listens. But if I say something nasty about Garrison or Harry Connick, the lights go on and it's all over television."