

GARRISON POLLS 40 PCT.--CONNICK

T.P. 10/3/69
Survey Taken Sept. 1-15,
Says DA Candidate

The public opinion poll results made known this week show that District Attorney Jim Garrison is 60 per cent unpopular with New Orleanians, DA candidate Harry Connick said Thursday.

The poll, taken during Sept. 1-15, showed Garrison with 40 per cent and Connick with 18 per cent support. The two other candidates had an 11 per cent total and the remainder were undecided.

Connick said he has no knowledge of another poll, but told a group of Tulane University students that he has gained considerable strength since then.

At the Tulane School of Law, Connick told the Students for Connick group that a district attorney should be both a fair prosecutor and a competent administrator.

ASK INVOLVEMENT

He said Garrison "has failed to adequately represent the people of this community. He says you can be proud of his record.

Well, I'm not and I don't think you are either."

He told the law students, "I want you to get involved in this campaign. As law students you should be interested in the fair and impartial administration of justice."

Asked if he thinks that marijuana laws are too harsh, Connick replied, "No, I don't think so. But I do want to institute a deferred prosecution plan for young first offenders."

Finding marijuana gleanings in the pocket of an 18-year-old student is a far cry from having solid evidence of mass sales by a longtime narcotics pusher, Connick added.

'BY ACCIDENT'

Connick said it "came out by accident" when former Garrison first assistant Charles R. Ward quit the office that many defendants were jumping bond and leaving New Orleans.

One man, he said, "skipped out because he was afraid he would be prosecuted."

Another, he added, was found to be in the North Carolina state prison. After leaving New Orleans, the man committed armed robberies in Georgia and New York and a burglary in North Carolina, Connick said.

"The district attorney's office says I'm wrong. But the facts and records are in the clerk's office of the Criminal District Court," Connick added.

There is more than \$1 million in uncollected bond money because of 1,100 bond jumpers, and of this total only \$70,000 can be collected, Connick said.