

LACK OF BACKING FOR CONNICK HIT

Petre Laces Into Business

TP Community

9/25/69
Mayoral candidate John J. Petre Wednesday laced into the business community for its failure to support Harry Connick financially in his bid to become Orleans Parish district attorney.

Speaking to the Redemptorist High School student body at the school gymnasium, Petre denied that Connick has given him any campaign contribution for Petre's endorsement of Connick Monday.

"Mr. Connick is not in a position to make a campaign contribution to me or anyone else," said Petre. "And I wish that I could say to the business community what I am saying to you now. It is their responsibility what happens in the district attorney's office in the next four years. It's my responsibility, it's yours and it's their (business community) responsibility."

"Mr. Connick doesn't have the money to make contributions to me or anybody else, and he doesn't have it because the business leaders of the community who honestly believe Mr. Connick ought to be the next district attorney are afraid to give him money; they are afraid what the reaction will be."

"And I say shame on them, shame on them. I think you will agree with me."

Petre also hit at former first assistant DA Charles R. Ward, who said Tuesday that Petre forces sought a deal with him first before going to Connick. "Mr. Ward cannot be elected," said Petre, "because he cannot possibly point the finger at the present district attorney (Jim Garrison), when for seven and one-half years, Mr. Ward was the principal assistant to that DA. It's an untenable position for Mr. Ward, working with a man that long, then turning around one day and resigning and criticizing him when you have been part and parcel of the operation."