

PROBE BLOCKED, WARD CHARGES

J.P. 9/11/69
Candidate Hits Garrison
LL&T Case Decision

Charles Ray Ward charged Monday that Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison refused to let the district attorney's office investigate Louisiana Loan & Thrift Corp. and he added that there is "good cause" to begin now on an investigation of the bankrupt firm.

Ward, an independent candidate for district attorney, told the Press Club of New Orleans that Garrison's refusal came at a time when Garrison was obsessed with prosecution of Clay L. Shaw on charges of conspiring to assassinate the President. Shaw was found innocent.

"Where before Garrison had attacked (state Atty. Gen.) Jack Gremlion, he now protected him by refusing to let the office investigate Louisiana Loan & Thrift," Ward said.

"Where before Garrison had accused judges of being corruptly influenced, he now stated that there was no organized crime in New Orleans," Ward added.

He said there is good cause for the Orleans Parish Grand Jury to investigate those operations of LL&T "where the statute of limitations has not run out." A case against LL&T is now before Federal District Court here.

Ward, former chief assistant district attorney, served under Garrison from 1962 until he resigned June 17, 1969, to run

for office. Ward maintained that he "literally ran the entire office" during the investigation of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy "except for a few executive decisions made by Garrison and, of course, the Shaw case."

Ward added, "Sometimes days would pass without his

(Garrison's) coming into the office. If our staff needed him, they usually had to call the steam room of the New Orleans Athletic Club to reach him."

He said he thinks the people will elect the candidate whom they consider best qualified to stop crime in the streets. Ward said he favors a juvenile curfew

for those 16 years old and younger, stricter enforcement of laws prohibiting pornography and half-way houses for criminals.

Ward addressed a luncheon arranged by the Greater New Orleans Chapter of Sigma Delta Chi, national journalism fraternity.