

'SHAW CASE HURT CRIME WAR'

5-1-7-24-69 Opponents Rap Garrison

By ALLAN KATZ

The three opponents of District Attorney Jim Garrison today ripped into his administration, charging that Garrison's pursuit of the Clay Shaw conspiracy case has resulted in a relaxation of the fight against crime in the streets here.

The three addressed the board and membership of the Metropolitan Crime Commission of New Orleans at a luncheon at the Church House. Garrison did not hear his opponents' initial thrusts

at him because he arrived an hour late.

Garrison told the MCC that he felt in seven years in office he has made significant improvements and brought the DA's office to a higher level than it has ever attained before.

"I INTEND TO follow the same practices as before," he said. "I see no reason to change."

The three opponents, Harry Connick, Charles Ward and Ross Scaccia, said they found much that needed to be changed.

Connick charged that Garrison's failure to prosecute bail bond forfeitures had led to the release of more than 800 dangerous criminals and uncollected forfeitures of more than \$1 million.

CONNICK SAID a survey of bond forfeitures conducted by him covering 1967-69 show that something like 880 defendants were not prosecuted and now are fugitives.

"That is a tremendous army of crime turned loose on New Orleans," said Connick.

Ward, who resigned as Garrison's first assistant to run against him, said the DA has used his office for his own benefit rather than for the benefit of the people of New Orleans.

HE SAID Garrison has built an empire that includes "13 investigators, two cars, two chauffeurs and two body guards."

He said Garrison uses one car during the day and one in evening "with only infre-

quent stops at the district attorney's office."

Ward charged that two of Garrison's investigators moonlight during the daytime as security officers for the New Orleans Saints, another is a nighttime bartender in Jefferson Parish and a third is a parttime route man for a juke box-pinball machine company.

SCACCIA said he resigned from the DA's office after four years as an assistant because of disgust over the Clay Shaw case. "It was a fabricated case, completely made up by the present DA for purposes

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of national publicity," he said. Shaw was found innocent of conspiring to kill President John F. Kennedy.

Scaccia maintained Garrison has misused the office to prosecute people he does not like and that the entire process of law enforcement and justice has been badly impaired as a result.

Garrison said during his time in office he has conducted crusades against loan sharking and prostitution. He said that in more than 900 jury cases, his staff has won more than 800 and has never lost a murder case.

"I don't think any improvements are needed," said Garrison. "If they were, I would make them."

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