Criticism May Lead Him to Be Candidate--DA

S-1 3/14/69

District Attorney Jim Garrison said last night he is now considering running for reelection because of the States-Item's call for his resignation.

Garrison, in a televised interview, said he has no intention of resigning. He expressed surprise that the newspaper would make such a demand.

"WE HAVE BEEN in office for 6½ years, and this is the first time we have lost a major case. I was very surprised to pick up the paper the next day and see I was being advised to resign."

On Saturday, March 1, hours after a jury acquitted Clay L. Shaw of conspiring to kill President John F. Kennedy, the States-Item termed Garrison "unfit to hold the office of district attorney or any other office." The newspaper called his prosecution of Shaw a "perversion of the legal process."

Garrison said last night the Shaw case was "a very fair prosecution."

THE DA, WHO WAS first elected in 1962, said he doesn't "particularly enjoy public life" and had not planned to seek reelection in November.

Because of the newspaper's stand, he said, he now is considering making the race.

"The last thing I am going to do is resign under any sort of authoritarian pressure," Garrison said.

BRITONS DRINK LESS TEA

LONDON — The average Briton's tea consumption has dropped to 2.5 ounces a week.