

GARRISON ASSUMES HIS OWN DEFENSE

New Orleans Prosecutor
Is on Trial for Bribery

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NEW ORLEANS, Sept. 12— District Attorney Jim Garrison, defendant in a pinball bribery case in United States District Court here, took over his own defense today because of "irreconcilable differences" between him and his attorneys.

Mr. Garrison also asked Judge Herbert W. Christenberry to remove himself from hearing the case, charging that the judge had made a statement in court showing "unconscious bias" that Mr. Garrison said "had the effect of hurting me and my candidacy" for reelection in November.

Judge Christenberry had said in court "there is abundant evidence to establish the guilt of all the defendants if the jury believes it" when he denied motions for acquittal filed by defense attorneys on Tuesday.

The judge refused to remove himself from the case.

Mr. Garrison and the two other defendants in the case, John Aruns Calltry and Robert E. Nims, pinball machine owners, are charged with conspiracy to obstruct law enforcement by giving and taking bribes to protect pinball machine gambling.

Mr. Garrison began questioning witnesses in court this afternoon after the departure of his attorneys, Louis Merhige of New Orleans and Dr. Fred Barnett, a member of the Boston law firm of F. Lee Bailey.

Judge Announces Shift

Mr. Garrison's assumption of the role of his own attorney was announced in court by Judge Christenberry, who said that there had been "irreconcilable differences between the way their client wishes to proceed and the way they [the defense attorneys] wish to proceed."

Judge Christenberry said the departure of Mr. Merhige and Dr. Barnett was "not intended

to be a reflection on the withdrawing attorneys. They do not feel — and the court agrees with them — that they can continue."

The nine-man, three-woman jury has heard taped conversations that allegedly indicate that Mr. Garrison took \$1,000 bribes from pinball dealers on four occasions. The conversations between Mr. Garrison and an informer, Pershing Gervais, were recorded by electronic equipment strapped to Mr. Gervais's clothing and transmitted to Internal Revenue Service agents stationed in cars outside Mr. Garrison's house.

Mr. Gervais, who was a friend of Mr. Garrison and an investigator for him, did not testify in the case for the prosecution.