

Garrison and the media 'circus'

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The bribery trial of Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison is a very serious matter. All citizens should be concerned with its contents. Whether the district attorney is technically guilty or technically innocent of the actual charges is not as important as the question of whether or not he put himself in a position of discussing the taking of money for not doing his official duty and did the alleged payoff money actually come into his possession or not.

Instead of focusing on these aspects of his trial the news media, and especially the electronic news media, has made a circus of this very serious affair by the daily interviewing of Mr. Garrison on the courthouse steps. This has clouded the real issue and created an entertaining diversion. It is not important to New Orleans citizens whether or not the national administration is more corrupt or less corrupt than the district attorney himself.

I recently moved back to New Orleans from Jefferson Parish, where I lived for the last 18 years. I cannot walk into a drug store or supermarket in New Orleans without there being a full-time and uniformed policeman on duty. This is not the way it is in Jefferson Parish and it is not the way it was when I left Orleans Parish.

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