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Garrison Requests Money For 7 More Assistants

States-Item Bureau

BATON ROUGE — Orleans Parish Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison is asking the state Legislature for \$70,000 increase in his office's appropriation to allow the hiring of seven new assistant DA's.

Chief Assistant DA John Volz told the Senate Finance Committee today the seven new attorneys are needed to handle cases in the 10 divisions of Criminal District Court. Garrison currently has 10 assistants, Volz said.

At the request of state Sen. Adrian G. Duplantier of New Orleans, a committee member, the \$70,000 requested was added to the state budget, subject to the approval of the Division of Administration and the Legislative Budget Committee.

Sen. B. B. "Sixty" Rayburn,

committee chairman, told Volz, "I don't know of a single case where we've allowed additional employees for any state agencies this year. We're in a bad way as far as money goes."

Sen. J. D. DeBlieux of Baton Rouge pointed out that the Louisiana Judicial Council had not stated its position on the question of new assistant district attorneys in New Orleans.

Volz said the addition of seven assistants would place the average for each Criminal Court division at 1.5 assistants, compared to the present one per division.

He said the DA's office would have to request supplemental funds for the seven new positions if the state grants the \$70,000 request.