

CONNICK LAUDS PETRE SUPPORT

Claims Backing for Him Shows Leadership

Harry Connick, candidate for District Attorney in the Nov. 8 Democratic primary, said Monday mayoral candidate John J. Petre's endorsement of him was a significant contribution to his candidacy.

Coming so early in the campaign, Connick said, the endorsement manifests a high order of leadership.

"It is a tangible expression of the concern that every thoughtful, responsible public and civic leader in our community feels about crime in the streets," he said.

"I am deeply grateful.

"Mr. Petre's endorsement is significant for several other reasons. He has again demonstrated leadership.

CRIME CONDITIONS

"He is the first mayoralty candidate to take a stand against the apathy, indifference and neglect that allows the conditions of crime to exist in the City of New Orleans.

"He is the first to demonstrate his concern about crime in the streets by squarely focusing on the operation of the district attorney's office.

"Mr. Petre recognizes that in addition to increasing the number on our police force and giving them better salaries and benefits that an honest, fulltime, efficient district attorney's office is also an absolute necessity in the fight against crime and criminals.

"In sum, Mr. Petre is the first mayoral candidate to examine the entire problem of crime in our community and the first to squarely face the problem and take a firm stand.

LOOKS FOR MORE

"His endorsement makes it possible for me to receive other endorsements for district attorney."

It is evidence, if evidence be needed, Connick said, that Petre has a deep understanding of the wishes of the people of New Orleans and the knowledge through his 12 years in government that an effective district attorney can reinforce the city



LEOPOLDO F. CIMINO
Not prosecuted.

ability to suppress and stop crime in the streets.

It is a tribute to his unchallenged reputation as an honest, conscientious and intelligent public official, he added.

"I am highly honored by his endorsement," said Connick.

Connick Raps DA on Bonds

to ask how to fill them out," Connick said.

Says Garrison Let N.Y. Criminal Slip Away

District Attorney candidate Harry Connick charged Monday that the DA's office has neither prosecuted nor collected the bond forfeiture of Leopoldo Frank Cimino, 39, of the Bronx, N.Y., despite his arrest here on a charge of possessing \$50,000 worth of heroin.

"Where is Cimino now?" Connick asked. "The DA doesn't know because he (Cimino) skipped."

Connick, former defense lawyer and prosecutor running for DA in the Nov. 8 first Democratic primary, addressed a luncheon meeting of the Rotary Club of Carrollton Monday at Lenfant's Restaurant.

Connick said Cimino's police record dates back to 1951, when Cimino was convicted of selling heroin in New York. In New York in 1954, Connick said, Cimino was convicted of selling narcotics, in 1956 he was convicted of assault and robbery with a gun and in 1962 he was convicted for selling narcotics.

Cimino, described by New Orleans police as a narcotics addict with a \$100-a-day habit, was arrested at his French Quarter apartment June 17 with an estimated \$50,000 worth of heroin.

Police then alleged that Cimino had made frequent trips here apparently to peddle narcotics, and theorized that he was supplying other peddlers in the New Orleans area.

A \$10,000 bond was written by the Maryland National Insur-

ance Co., with Andrew J. Butler, 50, of New Orleans, as surety. Connick asserted that Butler was arrested in 1959 and 1964 in connection with eight felonies.

"Maryland National was on the bond for \$5,000 and Butler was on the bond for \$5,000," Connick said. "It defies imagination how a man who was charged with eight felonies got on the bond with a man from New York."

Cimino failed to appear for arraignment Aug. 15 and his bond was increased to \$25,000 at that time. It was set to be forfeited Aug. 29, but the bond hearing was continued Aug. 28. "The record doesn't say why," Connick said.

Connick said the \$10,000 bond was a mistake in the first place and that the DA should have called to the judge's attention that Cimino was a multiple offender. "This (the \$10,000) would have been all right if he wasn't a multiple offender with a 20-year criminal record — and one from New York City," Connick said.

Connick also raised the question of why Maryland Na-

tional Insurance Co. was still allowed to write bonds when the judges of Criminal District Court and other judges had refused to accept them.

"I'm not singling out an isolated incident," Connick said. He maintained that the DA's office has lost \$1 million in bond forfeitures and has allowed 1,000 criminals to flee jurisdiction "and go on committing other crimes."

Connick said his manager of uncollected bond forfeitures prompted the DA to send a staff member to the National Crime Information Center here several days ago and ask for 500 forms to turn in on fugitives. "He had