

(An Editorial)

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## What Kind of DA?

District Attorney Jim Garrison says the States-Item is against him. He is right. We are against him. But for good reasons.

In a series of front page editorials, we have spoken out against Mr. Garrison. We felt an obligation to do so. Many private citizens would like to speak out against Mr. Garrison. But they are afraid. For Mr. Garrison has shown he will not hesitate to ruin innocent men.

This newspaper is not afraid of Jim Garrison. We were serving this community long before anyone ever heard of Jim Garrison and we will continue to serve it long after he has gone. And so we speak for those whose voices are stilled by fear.

We have criticized Mr. Garrison for the way he has misused and abused the vast powers of his office. We have called him a phantom district attorney for refusing to debate his opponents, for refusing to answer the questions that are preying on the minds of the people of New Orleans.

We have criticized him for indulging in wild fantasies while crime runs rampant in our city. We have criticized him for his neg-

ligence in collecting forfeited bail bonds. And we have criticized him for dropping charges against hardened criminals and for failing to vigorously prosecute others.

Mr. Garrison seeks to portray himself as a champion of the little man. It is a good political tactic. But if Mr. Garrison is genuinely interested in the little man, why has he not prosecuted those who take advantage of the little man? For it is the little people who suffer most at the hands of criminals. Why hasn't Mr. Garrison investigated Louisiana Loan & Thrift in which hundreds of little people stand to lose their life's savings?

If the people of this city want a district attorney who will continue to let crime run rampant, if they want a district attorney who will continue to make this city the laughing stock of the nation, then by all means they should vote for Jim Garrison.

But if the people of this city are ready for a real DA, if they are ready for a full-time DA who will enforce the law with firmness and justice for all, then **HARRY CONNICK** is their man.