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Connick Raps Garrison for Laxity in Job

Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison has been attacked by DA candidate Harry Connick for "not doing his job and for trying to make people believe he did."

Addressing a Rotary Club of Gentilly luncheon at the Bayou Shores Country Club yesterday, Connick said Garrison keeps talking about his "great accomplishments" during his seven years in office.

"He says he has won 850 jury trials during his administration. This is a lot of jury trials. But the public should do a lot of thinking about this," Connick said.

HE SAID THE 850 figure means little more than 100 jury trials per year since Garrison took office. Breaking it down further, said Connick, by the eight sections of Criminal District Court (the court since has been expanded to 10 sections), this means each section handled only 12 jury trials yearly or one a month.

"One is not enough. Somebody is not doing his job," Connick asserted.

Connick also attacked Garrison's claim that he "cleaned up" Bourbon Street.

"He says he cleaned up Bourbon Street, but I find it curious that the police last week made 51 arrests for B-drinking and narcotics violations. Why, if it was clean, were the arrests made?"

CONNICK ALSO challenged Garrison's claim that his office never has lost a murder case in the last seven years.

Connick said Garrison did not prosecute any of the murder cases himself. Most of the murder charges were reduced to manslaughter, added Connick.