

Garrison Is Still Target of Opponents in DA Race

Connick, Scaccia, Ward Speak at Meeting

District Attorney Jim Garrison Thursday night was still a favorite target for the barbed verbal darts of his opponents for the DA's office, as it seems he will be throughout the campaign.

Candidates Harry Connick, Ross T. Scaccia and Charles R. Ward, in alphabetical order, took their turns at a Citizens Action League meeting at the Fountainebleau Motor Hotel to tell why they should be DA and Garrison should not.

Garrison, however, was not there personally to hear their criticisms of him and his administration of the district attorney's office, all oft-repeated during the early days of the campaign. His chief assistant, James L. Alcock, who represented him there, said that Garrison was home with a back ailment.

EXPERIENCE CITED

Connick, whose address was less Garrison-oriented than Ward's or Scaccia's, proclaimed that he would make a better DA than anyone else running for the post because of his experience in both criminal defense (as a legal aid lawyer) and prosecution (as chief of the criminal division of the U.S. attorney's office here).

Connick said that if voters want four more years of the type of service Garrison has given for the past eight, than they shouldn't vote for him. However, he said that he was the man who could do something about such things as organized crime and other areas he said Garrison has failed in.

Alcock, second to speak, cited a figure of 84.4 per cent in DA office victories in the 979 jury trials conducted during the Garrison years.

He attributed to Garrison the fact that there is no organized prostitution in New Orleans and said that Garrison's office was the first to prosecute lottery companies and get convictions.

And Alcock didn't fail to use what seems to have become a Garrison - campaign standard: "There is rising crime rate in

ed criminals was desperately needed.

cities where he is not DA.

SCACCIA'S CANDIDACY

Scaccia, who is a former assistant DA, said that he announced his candidacy for DA before the Clay Shaw (Kennedy assassination conspiracy) trial was over because he believed then that there was "a crisis at Tulane and Broad (location of the DA's office)."

He called the Shaw trial Garrison's "notorious case" and accused him of abusing the power of the DA's office. He said that Garrison gave varying statements at different times during the case about who was involved in the assassination, such as a precision guerrilla team and a Nazi operation including "oil rich billionaires in Texas" and some Dallas policemen.

Ward, referring to Alcock's appearance for Garrison, said that he had been in the same position when he was the DA's assistant. He said that when the "going gets rough" Garrison makes excuses. "When I represented Jim Garrison," he said, "he had the flu . . ."

He said that Garrison pledged to abide by the jury's decision in the Shaw trial, but when the jurors returned a not guilty verdict, he broke his word and "came back and recharged Clay Shaw with perjury."

Ward pledged vigorous action against pornography, condoned the use of methadone in treating narcotics addicts and said that there should be a curfew for juveniles.

All the candidates said a rehabilitation program for convict-