

DA Runs Office From Club--Rival

5-1 95/18

District Attorney Jim Garrison's opponents continued to jibe at him today, charging that Garrison runs his office from the New Orleans Athletic Club and that he has abandoned prosecution of crime in the streets for the investigation of President John F. Kennedy's assassination.

Garrison and his opponents addressed the Young Men's Business Club of Greater New Orleans at the Roosevelt Hotel.

Garrison told the YMBC that in the seven years he has been in office, "I have given this city a district attorney's office it can be proud of, a district attorney's office you should not let anyone tell you to be ashamed of." Appearing with Garrison were his three opponents, Ross T. Scaccia, Harry Connick and Charles Ward.

SCACCIA TOLD THE group that Garrison has "taken more than any DA in the history of this city. Garrison has taken your power to reason, your courage and your dignity, and replaced it with fear.

"This calm man—Mr. Cool—where was Mr. Garrison when his staff needed him? He was at the NOAC."

Connick said that under Garrison, the DA's office has failed in its primary duty in protecting the citizens of New Orleans from robbery, burglary and rape.

He noted that Garrison speaks of the DA's office winning 800 cases in Garrison's almost eight years in office.

"LET'S LOOK at that," said Connick. "Eight hundred cases in eight years is 100 cases a year. Eight sections of court into 100 cases a year means 12 jury trials a year, one a month.

"One jury case a month means the district attorney's office isn't prosecuting enough."

Connick said that the failure

of the DA's office to worry enough about crime in the streets had resulted in cases where criminals have committed crimes, been released on bond, committed more crimes and been released on bond yet again.

"It can be stopped," said Connick. "All it requires is

dedication."

WARD SAID THAT Garrison is rarely in his office and gains his prestige from the hard work of a staff that gets little support or encouragement from the DA.

"Mr. Garrison's record in cases in which he has been involved is won, none and lost, two. He tried to prosecute Judge Buddy Cocke and Clay Shaw and lost both. The distinguished record is the one compiled by the staff when I was first assistant DA."

Garrison rebutted his opponents, saying, "I had no idea how terrible the office or how insidious a character I am until this election year. It seems that the loss of one case and the coming of an election year radically changes people's perspectives of the DA's office."