

## HAVE 'INSIDE TRACK'

# 2 DA Assistants May Be Judges

By JACK DEMPSEY

Two top assistants to Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison are in line for appointment to two new Criminal District Court judgeships if the measure wins legislative approval, reliable sources told the States-Item today.

Sources said First Asst. Dist. Atty. Charles Ray Ward and Asst. DA Alvin V. Oser had the inside track to snaring the two judgeships by gubernatorial appointment by Gov. John J. McKeithen.

A BILL creating the two seats on the criminal court bench went to the floor of the House today after breezing through a House committee on a 10 to 2 vote yesterday.

Under terms of the bill authored by Sen. Michael O'Keefe of New Orleans and passed earlier in the current session by the Senate, the judgeships will be created when funds become available, with the governor making interim appointments to the positions until the 1970 congressional elections.

The sources said Garrison would help the two men in getting the appointments because of his close political ties with the governor.

Oser, the son of late Criminal District Court Judge Frederick W. Oser, said he was interested in the \$21,000-a-year job.

"I AM DEFINITELY interested in the judgeship and I will definitely be a candidate for the position when and if and election is called," he said.

The assistant DA declined, however, to speculate whether the governor would appoint him and Ward.

Ward said he was interested in the job, but pointed out funds to create the positions would be "hard to come by."

He said it was a matter of record that the Legislature was "piddling" with its allocations of funds during the current session.

AT PRESENT, there are eight Criminal District Court judges. The last appointments to the bench came in August, 1956, when the late Gov. Earl K. Long appointed Judges Bernard F. Bagert and Shirley G. Wimberly to new positions on the court. Bagert is now the senior judge of the

See JUDGES—Page 4



CHARLES RAY WARD



ALVIN V. OSER

## Judges--

Continued From Page 1

Criminal Courts.

In addition to a lack of funds, the addition of the two judgeships may be complicated by a lack of space.

The police department vacated its quarters in the Criminal District Court building last month, allowing a committee to go ahead with plans to turn the vacated police space into new court rooms for Judges Frank J. Shea and Matthew S. Braniff. The two judges, along with their staffs, are currently tucked into cubby-hole courtrooms on the third floor of the building.

Committee members fear the addition of two new judges will put on a squeeze for space in the building.

There is also the possibility

the appointments of the two men would meet with vigorous opposition by numbers of other city political figures who are known to be interested in the 12-year posts.

## House Okays 2 Judgeships For Orleans

(States-Item Bureau)

BATON ROUGE—The Louisiana House of Representatives voted last night to create two new criminal district judgeships in Orleans Parish.

The 92-4 vote on the bill previously passed by the Senate came shortly before adjournment last night.

New Orleans Rep. Anthony J. Yesich Jr., who handled the bill in the House, explained that the judgeships will be created when funds are available.

If they are created before 1970, interim appointments can be made by the governor until candidates can run for the full 12-year terms in the 1970 congressional elections.

First Assistant Dist. Atty. Charles Ray Ward and Asst. DA Alvin V. Oser reportedly have the inside track on snaring the judgeships.

11 July 1968