

Bond Procedure, Crime Rise Linked

District Attorney candidate Harry Connick linked the wounding of a Michigan policeman to a free-on-bond New Orleans prisoner today, and blamed the bail bonding procedure for the spiraling crime rate.

Connick, speaking to the weekly Signa Delta Chi Newsmaker luncheon at the Press Club of New Orleans, also said, "I am afraid to think how much higher our crime rate would be if the same thing the DA allowed to go on here was being permitted to go on by other district attorneys."

Connick traced the record of George McCormick, the man accused of wounding a police detective last month in Pontiac, Mich.

CONNICK SAID McCormick had a crime record in New Orleans dating back to 1966 when he was arrested for attempted murder and aggravated burglary.

"The DA's office refused the charge," Connick said. "On Dec. 30, 1967, McCormick was arrested for a burglary committed in New Orleans. He was charged and posted a \$1,000 bond—with the Maryland National Insurance Company. He failed to appear for trial . . . His bond was forfeited. It has not been collected," he said.

Connick charged that while on bond McCormick was identified as one of two men suspected of robbing a Negro man on Louisiana Ave. last April. "He was also wanted in Birmingham, Mich., for committing an armed robbery on July 23, 1969," Connick said.

THE DA CANDIDATE said McCormick was arrested here Sept. 1 and is now in parish prison under a \$50,000 bond.

Connick recommended these changes in the bail bonding procedure:

—As DA he would recommend to the court a bond which takes into account the habits and records of the professional criminal.

—Swift prosecution of professional criminals who post high bonds.

—"When any defendant fails to appear, his bond will be immediately forfeited and collected," Connick said.

HE ALSO RECOMMENDED:

—A consistent check to determine what companies are writing bonds and once the bonds forfeited approaches the \$70,000 amount of deposit with the state treasurer that company must settle up before writing more bonds.

—Regular checks by the city auditor to determine the status of bail bond forfeitures and collections.

—Changing the bail bond law to make it a crime for any bondsman to write a bail bond on the installment plan.

Connick said during the last four years, more than 1,000 criminal defendants have jumped bond in Orleans Parish.

HE SAID NEW Orleans recently joined in the computer-operated National Crime Center which uses punched cards to alert the nation to wanted fugitives.

"It would recommend that Jim Garrison get 1,000 of these cards and start rounding up these criminals so that I can prosecute them when I take office," said Connick.

Only one species of goldenrod is wild in England, but in the eastern region of the United States over 60 varieties can be found.