

SEPTEMBER 10, 1

## DA's Abuse of Power' Attacked by Opponents

Three candidates opposing District Attorney Jim Garrison's bid for re-election in the Nov. 8 primary last night again attacked him for what they termed misuse and abuse of the power of his office.

They spoke at a meeting of the Criminal Courts Bar Association at the Fontainebleau Motor Hotel.

Garrison, not present because of a backache, was defended by an assistant, James L. Alcock.

Harry Connick, Ross Scaccia and Charles R. Ward lashed out at the incumbent. Connick said Garrison should resign.

"DISTRICT ATTORNEY Garrison not too long ago said, 'If organized crime is found by the grand jury to be flourishing, I will resign as district attorney,'" Connick said.

The candidate said Garrison's position recently has changed from "organized crime doesn't exist" to "it is not flourishing." Connick said the fact remains it does exist.

**SCACCIA CRITICIZED** Garrison for his alleged influence with certain judges in Criminal District Court. "And there's another one ready to jump over the fence to his side," said Scaccia.

Ward, who until recently was an assistant to Garrison, accused the DA of being aligned with "the new left." Because of this, said Ward, he has been unable to objectively carry out the duties of his office. Garrison, he said, is anti-law enforcement, anti-law and anti-society.

Alcock pointed to an 85 per

cent case-win ratio in Garrison's office. But both Connick and Scaccia attacked that figure.

**GARRISON MAY** have such a ratio, but he maintains it by taking crimes and reducing them to nothing, said Connick. He cited a recent case where a man was accused of armed robbery, which carries a 99-year penalty. The man pleaded guilty to a lesser crime of simple robbery, he said.

Alcock said the grand jury did not say organized crime was flourishing in the city. He said the district attorney's office cannot prosecute a man solely because he is a member of the Cosa Nostra.

"That in itself is not a crime," he said.