



RONALD WAYNE M'GILL

# Weed Suspect Freed 7 Times, Connick Says

By ALLAN KATZ

District attorney candidate Harry Connick charged today that a man arrested on seven different counts of possessing or peddling marijuana was allowed by DA Jim Garrison to skip his bail bond on each offense, was never brought to trial and since has disappeared.

Connick, in a speech before the Sertoma Club at the Rault Center, identified the wanted man as Ronald Wayne McGill, 25.

THE M'GILL case is the latest in a series of charges by Connick, who says he can prove that a long list of burglars, armed robbers and narcotics offenders have been

(Turn to Page 13, Column 1)

Continued from Page 1

permitted by Garrison to go free on low bail bonds time and again.

Connick said it isn't unusual for police to have to arrest a criminal three or four times before he finally goes to trial or flees New Orleans to prey on some other community.

Connick said McGill was actually arrested eight times between April 6, 1967, and March 28, 1968. Seven times he was charged with possessing or selling narcotics. The other occasion was an arrest for stealing \$8,195 from a 7-11 store where McGill was employed.

"THE TOTAL bail bonds on which McGill was released on these occasions were \$17,500," said Connick. "If I were district attorney, he would have been lucky to get off with a \$17,500 bail bond after the first narcotics offense."

Connick also charged that McGill's arrests were a result of "outstanding and dangerous undercover work by New Orleans police" which was wasted because of Garrison's failure to prosecute McGill.

Connick offered police records on McGill which showed:

—An arrest on April 6, 1967, for the alleged systematic theft of \$8,195 from the 7-11 food store. Released on \$1,500 bond.

—An arrest July 18, 1967, for possession of 13 matchboxes of marijuana. Bond set at \$2,500.

—An arrest on Feb. 21, 1968 on three counts of selling marijuana to police undercover agents and one of possessing marijuana. Bail on the three counts of peddling were set, respectively, at \$5,000, \$1,000 and \$3,000. The bail on the possession count was \$1,000.

—An arrest on March 28, 1968, for possession of marijuana. Bond was set at \$2,500.

—An arrest on March 28, 1968, on possession of marijuana. Bond was set at \$1,000.

"It is truly amazing how Mr. Garrison manages to al-

low lower bail bonds to be set the more offenses a man commits," Connick told the Sertoma Club.

HE SAID McGill has never faced trial on any of the eight counts brought against him and cannot be found in New Orleans by police.

"It is even more amazing that we have a DA who will not crack down on an accused marijuana peddler when we know that sellers of drugs prey in particular on our

young people," Connick said.

He said that a New Orleans physician, Dr. Gene Usdin, has said he believes 20 per cent of local high school students have used drugs. Dr. Usdin has said drugs are available to junior high school students.

CONNICK said Lt. Clarence Giarrusso, head of the vice squad, has said dope is available at every high school in the city.

And, Connick added, a lo-

cal teenage anti-drug group (called ANTI) has said that teenagers can obtain dope in New Orleans just by calling a pusher.

"It seems to me that McGill epitomizes the kind of case a DA would want to prosecute promptly and vigorously," Connick said. "In practice, Mr. Garrison has been neither vigorous nor prompt in his actions against McGill, who is charged with being part of a dope network that preys on the young."