

TURBULENT WEEK

Candidates Close Hot DA Campaign

By ALLAN KATZ

A turbulent final week of campaigning appears to have left little more district attorney candidates to say prior to tomorrow, when the voters take over.

Harry Connick, one of three candidates opposing incumbent Jim Garrison, dropped what will probably be the campaign's final bombshell when he released documents purporting to show that Garrison held at least 30,000 shares in the bankrupt Louisiana Loan and Thrift Corp.

Connick produced three stock certificates, two powers of attorney giving the right to transfer the stock which were signed "Jim Garrison," and a \$25,000 note to Garrison in favor of LL&T which was also signed "Jim Garrison."

CONNICK SAID Garrison never investigated LL&T and asked yesterday if the documents he produced might have something to do with the reason.

Garrison put out a short statement, saying he had never owned any stock in LL&T and adding:

"I wouldn't be surprised at anything Mr. Connick or the newspapers might say in the next 48 hours."

Connick seems to have emerged in the final weeks of the campaign from among the three contenders for Garrison's job as the major opponent in the race which has drawn international attention.

VYING WITH Garrison and Connick for votes are Charles Jay Ward and Ross Scaccia. Ward is expected to show some strength in tomorrow's election and the votes he gets could keep Garrison from a first-primary victory.

Political observers earlier had made Garrison a heavy favorite to win but now say the final result is uncertain. Generally, incumbents must win or come very close to winning in the first primary or face defeat in a second primary.

The decision, of course, will be made by a tough jury—

estimated 175,000 to 185,000 Democratic voters tomorrow. There are 217,000 registered Democrats.

Besides the LL&T charges raised by Connick, specific issues that might sway voters tomorrow include:

—Garrison's administration of his office, particularly the failure to collect \$1.2 million in forfeited bail bonds, most of which are presently tied up in court cases.

—The qualifications of Garrison's opponents. Ward and Scaccia were assistants to Garrison. Connick has been an assistant U.S. attorney and a Legal Aid attorney but has not worked in the DA's office. His opponents say he lacks trial experience.

—Garrison's handling of the Clay Shaw case.

For most voters, the key question is likely to be:

"Do you approve of Jim Garrison?"

For his part, Garrison has been the confident incumbent although he has stepped up his attacks on Connick in television spots this week.

The incumbent has told voters he holds firm to his positions, saying "You know I won't change" and questioning whether his opponents could withstand the pressures of the office.

Garrison points to the fact that his assistant DAs are all full-time and claims they have compiled a record of 85 per cent wins in jury trials.

THE DA SELDOM mentions the Clay Shaw trial in his speeches and has not referred to the investigation of the murder of the late President John F. Kennedy in his TV spots.

Garrison has been an intermittent campaigner, limiting his appearances in recent weeks to political rallies where his supporters say he has been received with great enthusiasm.

The theme of his campaign has been that he is running against the New Orleans daily newspapers and the national news media as well as his three opponents.

The three opponents, for their part, have each taken a different approach in their attempts to defeat Garrison.

PRIOR TO THE purported LL&T revelations, Connick has rumped on the failure of Garrison to collect more than \$1.2 million in forfeited bail bonds. He also maintains that 1,173 accused criminals, many charged with serious crimes, have been let loose in the process.

Supported by a group of eager young law students who have canvassed the files at Criminal District Court, Connick has been able to produce a number of case files that he maintains prove his point of administrative neglect on Garrison's part.