

A News Analysis

Garrison Bids for Martyrdom

By JACK WARDLAW

The unpredictable political career of District Attorney Jim Garrison has taken a new turn with his vitriolic blast at a federal judge.

Federal District Judge Herbert W. Christenberry has declined to reply to Garrison's tirade of yesterday which seemed to be an open invitation to the judge to cite him for contempt.

With a governor's race in progress and Garrison reportedly ready to back an ultra-conservative candidate, the DA's actions took on the look of a bid for public martyrdom.

GARRISON BAITED the judge with

a scathing personal attack, including reflections on his integrity, truthfulness and honesty. It came in a statement from the DA announcing his intention to appeal Judge Christenberry's ruling that he cannot press perjury charges against Clay L. Shaw. The charges stem from Garrison's probe of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Attacks on the federal government are nothing new for Garrison, who has contended from the outset of his assassination probe that federal authorities have tried to block him at every turn.

But yesterday's blast at a federal

judge placed him squarely in the tradition of Southern politicians such as Ross Barnett, George C. Wallace and Jimmie H. Davis, in defiance of federal courts during the desegregation turbulence of the early 1960s.

In choosing the path of defiance, he left himself open to fines and possible imprisonment had Judge Christenberry chosen to cite him for contempt. The judge's silence today indicated he is not taking the bait.

NOT SINCE THE heyday of Barnett has there come such a vehement de-

Turn to Page 12, Column 1

TWELVE

TUESDAY, JUNE 1, 1971

Garrison Seeks Martyrdom

Continued from Front Page

nunciation of a federal jurist. It recalls Wallace's symbolic "stand in the schoolhouse door," at the University of Alabama, Barnett's attempt to circumvent court orders by declaring himself registrar of Ole Miss and Davis' attempts to seize the New Orleans public school system.

As far as results were concerned, all were exercises in futility. They did not even materially delay the desegregation of Alabama, Ole Miss or the New Orleans schools. But they made headlines and presumably political capital.

Even these results are mixed. Wallace remains master of his state but his national political ambitions have been thwarted, and he even had difficulty in his most recent Alabama campaign. Barnett suffered a humiliating defeat the next time he faced Mississippi voters after his Ole Miss crisis.

LOUISIANA voters may have a chance to pass judgment on Davis in November. He is expected to run for governor again. It will be recalled that as governor in 1960 he vowed he would

go to jail before he saw any Negro go to school with a white child in this state.

Davis never served a day in jail and racial integration is now commonplace in Louisiana schools.

Garrison in the past has played a different political game, and has never been rebuffed at the polls since he was elected DA in 1961.

HE WON his most recent election in 1969 with the massive support of black voters, and was for a time the darling of the far left, which was disinclined to believe that Kennedy was really killed by a Marxist, Lee Harvey Oswald.

The DA has not publicly indicated what role he plans to play in this year's governor's race, but reportedly he plans to ally himself with a candidate who has in the past opposed federal desegregation efforts. His current posture as a militant foe of federal authority could be tied in with this.

Maintaining black support while playing the role of a federal court-baiter would be a master political feat. Only a Garrison would even attempt it.

NY Times (June 7)

Garrison Plans to Appeal Ruling Against Shaw Case

NEW ORLEANS, May 31 (UPI)—District Attorney Jim Garrison said today that he would carry his perjury charge against Clay Shaw to the highest court possible.

United States District Judge Herbert W. Christenberry ruled Thursday that Mr. Garrison had no basis for prosecuting Mr. Shaw, who was acquitted in March, 1969, of charges that he conspired to assassinate President Kennedy.

Mr. Garrison said Friday that he might not appeal the Federal court ruling blocking further prosecution of Mr. Shaw. He apparently changed his mind after meeting with his assistants over the weekend. Mr. Garrison accused Mr. Shaw of lying to a grand jury when he said he did not know Lee Harvey Oswald or David Ferry, his accused co-conspirator.