

TWELVE

SATURDAY

City Hall Report

Ward Entry Creates Heat In DA Race

By DAVID SNYDER

Charles Ward's volcanic entry into the race for Orleans Parish district attorney this week created a whole new ball game.

The entry should be especially welcome to candidates such as Harry Connick and Ross T. Scaccia.

Prior to Ward's disappointment over not being appointed to a judgeship and his decision to run against his former boss, it could be assumed that Jim Garrison would run his campaign about the way he wanted.

In Garrison's case, this means avoiding a dog fight over the operation of his office, substituting instead an attack on the federal government and citing, as he has in the past, what he contends are reforms in the district attorney's office.

Ward could change the game plan. With an intimate knowledge of the office gleaned from years of serving as Garrison's first assistant, he can be expected to get down to basic issues.



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A CONNICK BACKER WAS more than pleased by the end of the week at the turn of events.

"This creates another dimension in the race. They (Ward and Garrison) could destroy each other."

Both men have been around politics long enough to see the danger in this and will try to avoid such an event, but destruction is a possibility.

Connick has now put together the semblance of an organization. His backers include attorneys Moise S. Steeg Jr., and Ernest N. Morin, New Orleans representative.

The candidate is making a strong pitch for help from the influential Coldwater Committee, apparently with some success.

One member of the committee is reportedly more interested in defeating Garrison than in the mayor's race.

It is, in fact, one of the dangers of a rip-roaring DA race that the battle may overshadow the race for mayor.

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IF THERE WAS EVER A TIME when the emphasis should be on electing the best possible man to lead the city, it is now. Hopefully, the electorate will not become so involved in a bloody DA race that it will ignore the issues in the campaign for mayor.

In connection with both races, attorney Ivor Trapolin, head of Mayor Victor H. Schiro's Committee on Crime and Delinquency, will not, as rumored, be a candidate for district attorney. He is also staying out of the mayor's race.

Trapolin ran Wilham Guste's successful campaign for the state Senate and was slated to head the latter's campaign for mayor. Now embroiled in a growing controversy over organized crime in the city, Trapolin will not figure in the Guste effort.

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THE CONSERVATIVE TREND: All the candidates for mayor can be expected to take an active interest in what is apparently a "law and order," "safe streets," shift to conservatism as reflected in a number of campaigns across the country.

Liberal Republican Mayor John Lindsay in New York is the latest and most prominent to fall in what appears to be a growing repudiation of the liberal doctrine.

But other upsets have taken place in mayor's races in Los Angeles, Minneapolis, Jersey City and Buffalo. Can more of the same be expected in New Orleans?

The answer may be "no," and for several good reasons. First of all, the New Orleans electorate of approximately 200,000 includes more than 60,000 Negroes.

Not only is this a very large bloc of votes for a "law and order" candidate to ignore in pitching his campaign to the white voter, the Negro in the community may have a greater stake in safe streets than anyone else. After all, the Negro of New Orleans has perhaps suffered proportionately more than the white voter where lawlessness is concerned.

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IT IS POSSIBLE THAT ONE candidate could pitch a conservative "law and order" campaign to the white voter, but such a campaign could be countered better in New Orleans than elsewhere.

The answer would seem to be agreement that safe streets are needed, but they are needed for everyone.

Said one Negro leader on the subject of crime in the streets: "There are a lot of Negroes who feel the same way about crime."

He is saying that the Negro voter may turn out to be more "conservative" on the subject of crime in the streets than the white voter. This being the case, the issue seems to weaken.