

## All Opponents Qualified, Garrison Tells Demos

Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison, an unexpected latecomer to a meeting of the Mid-City Democrats last night, said, "Everyone of my opponents is qualified for district attorney."

When the meeting began at an office of James E. Comiskey, First District assessor, at 441 S. Jefferson Davis Pkwy., Comiskey said Garrison was ill with a back problem.

The district attorney arrived during a talk by the final speaker of the night, DA candidate Harry Connick, who said Garrison had abused the power of the DA's office for seven and a half years and cited cases which he said illustrated "gross abuse and misuse."

**GARRISON DENIED** the charge, explaining, "We've tried to build a good office and steadily improve it."

Connick, a former U.S. attorney, said, "Just because I have the endorsements of John Petre and Moon Landrieu (mayoral candidates) and the New Orleans States-Item and The Times-Picayune doesn't mean I'm not independent."

Another DA candidate, Ross T. Scaccia, said he knows "who the big bookmakers (in New Orleans) are and I know that the present DA hasn't convicted these people." The city's problems also include murder, rape, said.

armed robbery and burglary, he

"AS YOUR DA, I'll do something about them," Scaccia said. He said he is the only candidate who has been an assistant Orleans Parish district attorney, an assistant U.S. attorney and a defense attorney.

Charles R. Ward, former as-

stant DA under Garrison, said, "The Shaw trial is history and I think we should forget it."

Ward said, "I don't understand this city. If I talk about the issues, nobody listens. But if I say something nasty about Garrison or Harry Connick, the lights go on and it's all over television."

## Connick Hits Garrison on Bail Bonds

District attorney candidate Harry Connick charged today that "the negligence of Jim Garrison has cost the taxpayers of New Orleans \$650,000 in forfeited bail bonds."

Connick, addressing students at Tulane University Law School, said in the period from 1965-68, Garrison's office allowed the Maryland National Insurance Company to run up more than \$725,000 in forfeited bail bonds.

"Garrison did this with full knowledge that Maryland National has only \$70,000 on deposit with the state of Louisiana and that its assets in other states are hopelessly tied up," Connick charged.

**CONNICK SAID** Garrison can get the \$70,000 Maryland National has in Louisiana only after a long court fight and that any effort to collect the other \$650,000 from other states will require years of court battle with an uncertain conclusion.

"That \$650,000 belongs to the taxpayers of New Orleans," Connick said. "How many policemen could the city hire with \$650,000? How many services, now lacking, could the city provide with \$650,000?"

In effect, Garrison has allowed Maryland National to run up a debt of \$720,000 to the taxpayers of New Orleans and now, through negligence, is going to have to let them get away scot-free."

**CONNICK SAID** the \$720,000 also represents "hundreds of professional criminals—robbers, burglars, dope peddlers, rapists and child-molesters—who were permitted to go free on these bonds and never showed up for trial."

Connick told of an alleged dope peddler named Leopold Cimino, arrested in New Orleans with heroin worth \$50,000, permitted to go free by Garrison on a \$10,000 bond. Cimino fled and has not been heard of since, said Connick.

"If I had been district attorney, I would have requested a \$1 million bond and compromised for a \$100,000 bond," Connick said.

The DA candidate told the law students they have a special responsibility in the district attorney's race.

"YOU, OF ALL people, have a special interest in the fair administration of justice. Garrison was elected to be an attorney, representing the people, and he has failed, allowing the guilty to go free while persecuting the innocent on the basis of evidence that juries quickly disposed of."

Connick said he was referring to Garrison's charges in the past that eight Criminal Court judges were under the control of racketeers, that the members of the Pardon Board sold pardons, and that Clay Shaw was guilty of conspiring to kill President Kennedy.

"Garrison made all of these charges and proved none of them. In every instance, juries and judges found his charges to be empty of substance without a scintilla of solid proof," Connick said.