

## DA's Attitude 'Hit-or-Miss,' Connick Says

District attorney candidate Harry Connick charged today that DA Jim Garrison has a "lazy hit-or-miss" attitude toward law enforcement.

Addressing the Exchange Club of New Orleans at a luncheon at the Rault Center, Connick said that under Garrison's administration, "we have treated hardened, professional criminals as though they were first offenders and we have treated first offenders as though they were hardened criminals."

Connick said Garrison's "sloppy" administration has permitted professional criminals to get off on low bail bonds, which they can make easily, while setting bonds for youthful first offenders that they cannot make and, therefore, are sent to overcrowded Parish Prison.

"THE RESULT is that the pros are out on the streets committing more crimes while young first offenders, like Michael Francis Tait, are confined in Parish Prison where they are subjected to the grossest abuses," Connick said.

Tait is the 21-year-old University of Maryland law student confined to Parish Prison when he could not make a \$500 bond on a minor charge. Tait said he was beaten and sexually assaulted in the prison 30 to 40 times in one night.

Connick told the Exchange Club that a man named Milton W. Sarazin, who has two convictions for robbery, was arrested this year and released on a \$500 bond and disappeared.

"A man who commits crimes for a living, like Sarazin, has a better chance of making a \$500 bond than does a 21-year-old university student accused of a minor offense," Connick said.

Connick said the answer is to place high bonds, in the \$25,000 to \$50,000 range, on professional criminals while releasing young first offenders on their own recognizance.