

Criminal Courts Bar 2-1 for Connick in Poll



HARRY CONNICK

Connick Announces Candidacy

Harry Connick has formally announced his candidacy in the Nov. 8 Democratic primary.

The former assistant United States attorney in New Orleans said in his statement, which included a seven-point solution, "Our major concerns in New Orleans are crime and the failure of the district attorney to prosecute acts of violence, corruption and theft."

He said to insure safety in the homes, in the streets and in the courts, "we need a responsible district attorney who will provide honest and fulltime leadership. I can provide that leadership."

CONNICK SAID "crime in the streets, organized crime, the rehabilitation of youth and the bail-bond parole (Turn to Page 12, Column 1)

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system that keeps the poor and the naive in jails and frees the professional criminal" are problems which need to be attacked directly.

The attorney outlined his "program of direct solution"

District Attorney candidate Harry Connick defeated incumbent Jim Garrison by more than a 2-1 margin in a poll of members of the Criminal Courts Bar Association released today.

In the poll, Connick received 62 per cent of the vote, Garrison 25 per cent. Two other candidates in the Nov. 8 Democratic primary, Charles Ray Ward and Ross Scaccia, received 11 per cent and two per cent, respectively.

A spokesman for the Criminal Courts Bar Association said the group's by-laws require that only percentages, not actual figures, be released to the public. There are about 100 members in the Criminal Courts Bar Association, and the spokesman said most of them voted.

The vote by the criminal lawyers was conducted by secret ballot, the spokesman said.

Earlier this month, Connick won by a 5-1 margin over Garrison in a poll conducted by the New Orleans Bar Association.

as follows:

1. CRIME IN THE STREETS: "No criminal wants a speedy trial. The surest deterrent to crime is quick arrest and prosecution."

2. ORGANIZED CRIME: "This system of protection for criminals and intimidation of honest businessmen can be met head-on by a program of legislation, information-sharing with other law agencies and prosecution for state offenses."

3. BAIL-BONDS: "In June of this year we learned of a complete breakdown in the collection of bail-bond forfeitures. Over \$1 million remains uncollected; more than 1,100 criminals went free."

4. REHABILITATION: "Youth can be saved. I will concentrate on helping youthful offenders where the offense is minor and the offender is without previous record."

5. PAROLE AND PARDON: "I will use the prestige

of my office to give Louisiana a full-time, professional pardon board and parole board. Professional criminals should remain in jail until they are equipped to return to the community."

6. EDUCATION: "In spite of determined efforts by the New Orleans police department, our policemen still need to be better informed on the constantly changing criminal law. Failure to inform them results in criminals going free because of improper procedures."

7. CONSIDERATION FOR THE PEOPLE: "Lazy proce-

dures in the district attorney's office too often have resulted in prospective witnesses and jurors undergoing worse hardships than criminals. They take days off from their businesses and work to wait in court and wait and wait, finally to be told the trial is postponed."

Connick said, "Swift prosecution has been dangerously absent from Jim Garrison's office. Long trial delays and low bonds for professional criminals has increased our crime rate to nearly crisis proportions. Too frequently our police have arrested the same criminal two, three and four times only to see him again jump bond and avoid prosecution."

On organized crime, Connick said, "I will establish an organized crime squad and staff it with attorneys and investigators who will work exclusively in this area."

HE SAID he would recommend "realistic bail-bonds that will guarantee the presence of the defendant in court. It is the function of the judge to set the amount of the bail. But it is the duty of the district attorney to recommend an appropriate bond and to inform the judge of the criminal background of the accused."

He said, "My specific solutions are realistic and workable. This is what a real district attorney should do. The question this community should ask itself is: Are we ready for a real D.A.?"

A lifelong resident of New Orleans and a World War II combat veteran, Connick received a bachelor of business administration degree from Loyola University and a bachelor of laws degree in 1961 from Tulane University.

HE TOOK postgraduate studies, which included a criminal law seminar at the Northwestern University Law School in Evanston, Ill., and a course in criminology at Louisiana State University in New Orleans.

Connick was an attorney in the New Orleans Legal Aid Bureau's criminal division from 1962 to 1965. From 1965 to this year, he was an assistant U. S. attorney in the U. S. Attorney's office for the Eastern District of Louisiana at New Orleans. As chief for the criminal division in 1968, he supervised a staff of seven assistant attorneys and six secretaries.