

Garrison Let 'Pro' Go Free, Connick Says

District attorney candidate Harry Connick has charged that incumbent Jim Garrison permitted a four-time offender to go free at the same time he was putting a 21-year-old law student in Parish Prison.

Connick, addressing a student audience at Louisiana State University in New Orleans, cited the cases of Michael Francis Tait and James Stroy as evidence of his charges of Garrison's abuse of the bail bond system.

Tait, the 21-year-old University of Maryland law student, was kept in Parish Prison for 10 days. He says he was beaten and sexually assaulted. Stroy, who was arrested six times between Feb. 4, 1967, and Aug. 1, 1969, was allowed to go free on a \$1,000 recognizance bond and has not been heard from since, according to Connick.

CONNICK SAID that police records show Stroy has a history of assault against police officers and gives this history of Stroy's offenses:

—He was arrested for carrying a tape recorder out of a Sears Roebuck store Feb.



JAMES STROY

4, 1967, and charged in Municipal Court.

—He was arrested June 9, 1967, after he obtained drugs, using a forged prescription. He received a six-month suspended sentence.

—He was arrested Aug. 19, 1968, for stealing merchandise from a New Orleans drugstore and charged in Municipal Court.

—He was charged with simple burglary on Nov. 7, 1968, in a theft from a shoe store. Bond of \$750 was set.

—Stroy was arrested for simple burglary from a Good-year store on Nov. 8, 1968. He made a \$1,500 bond which was forfeited Sept. 18, 1969. Bond was reset at \$25,000 by the DA's office. In connection with the Nov. 8 arrest, Stroy was charged with resisting arrest and battery against a police officer.

—On Aug. 1, 1969, Stroy was still at large out on bond. He was charged with attempted burglary of the Crescent Cigar Co. He was released on a \$1,000 recognizance bond. It was his sixth arrest in 31 months.

CONNICK TOLD the LSUNO students, "Garrison lets the pros go while youthful first offenders are kept in Parish Prison. Someone in the DA's office must like Stroy. He seems to have friends in high places."

Connick said that if he were DA, Stroy would have been placed under a high bond after his conduct showed he was a dangerous criminal.

Charging that more than 1,100 criminals have been able to jump low bonds under the Garrison administration, Connick said Garrison "apparently cannot tell the difference between a hardened pro and a law student."