

Garrison Let Abortionist Off, Connick Says

By ALLAN KATZ

District attorney candidate Harry Connick said today that Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison allowed a manslaughter charge against a convicted abortionist to remain unacted on for a four-year period, then dropped the charge. The case involved the death of a 21-year-old woman following an abortion.

Connick said the convicted abortionist is Mary Lou Hawkins, alias Honey Day, who has been arrested 21 times since 1941.

Connick said Garrison dropped the manslaughter charge against the Hawkins woman in the abortion death of a 21-year-old woman, who was taken to Charity Hospital in serious condition on Oct. 28, 1962, and died on Dec. 22, 1962. The District Attorney candidate said the manslaughter charge filed in the case

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was never acted on and was dropped by Garrison Oct. 8, 1968.

FIRST ASST. District Atty. James L. Alcock, asked to comment on Connick's charges, said he will review the case and would make a statement later "if that is warranted."

In a speech prepared for delivery before the Lee Circle Kiwanis Club at Delmonico Restaurant, Connick said Garrison allowed Miss Hawkins to plead guilty to a previous charge of criminal abortion while the young woman was on her deathbed at Charity Hospital.

He said Miss Hawkins served part of the two-year



MARY LOU HAWKINS

sentence at the State Penitentiary for Women at St. Gabriel, and was released Aug. 7, 1964, when she could have been charged in the young woman's death. However, he said, the manslaughter charge was allowed to lapse until Oct. 8, 1968, when it was dropped.

"The fact is that the death of this girl has gone unpunished," Connick said.

HE ADDED: "I would hope that the people who still think that Mr. Garrison runs a good DA's office will study this case. I think they will be as appalled as I am."

Connick said that since she returned from St. Gabriel,

Miss Hawkins has been arrested on another abortion charge, a forgery charge, a pandering and soliciting for prostitution charge, a charge of making obscene telephone calls, as a fugitive from Jefferson Parish, simple assault and battery, and allegedly passing worthless checks on three occasions.

Connick said the only case among these charges that has been tried involves four counts of passing worthless checks at a Gus Mayer store. Miss Hawkins was found guilty and sentenced to six years on these charges. Connick said a check at St. Gabriel showed that she can be paroled in 1971.

CONNICK SAID the woman still faces open charges on issuing worthless checks, theft, making obscene telephone calls, forgery and abortion.

"It's difficult to escape the impression that Mary Lou Hawkins is a detriment to the community," Connick said. "Yet, she has been operating on the charity of the district attorney's office which has been shockingly slow to get her off of our streets and even managed to find reason to dismiss a case where Miss Hawkins was charged with the death of a 21-year-old."