

NEW ORLEAN

Ward Says DA Infatuated with Leftist Tactics

District attorney candidate Charles Ray Ward charged that incumbent Jim Garrison has gone easy on leftist student movements at Fortier High School and Southern University in New Orleans because Garrison "is infatuated with the tactics of the New Left."

Ward, a former first assistant DA to Garrison, addressed a meeting of the American Association of University Professors at Louisiana State University in New Orleans yesterday.

In response to a question from the audience, Ward said he wanted to prosecute disruptive students at Fortier High School during unrest there last spring but was told by Garrison that the students were only "challenging the establishment."

WARD SAID Garrison developed the affinity for the New Left when members of that faction supported Garrison's case against Clay Shaw, who later was found innocent by a New Orleans jury on charges of conspiring to kill President John F. Kennedy.

Ward charged that Garrison felt the New Left was his ally in what Garrison saw as his challenge against the Warren Commission, the federal government and the national news media in the investigation of President Kennedy's death.

Later in the spring, Ward said, he wanted to prosecute 26 SUNO students involved in taking down the U.S. flag, placing it in a mailbox and replacing it with a "black flag of liberation" which Ward said the students pledged allegiance to.

"AT THAT TIME," Ward told the LSUNO audience, "Garrison said to me, 'Don't prosecute them. They're on our side. They're against the establishment too.'"

On the subject of the flag-lowering, Ward said, "Let me make it clear I think it's an act of contempt to replace the American with any flag and then pledge allegiance to the substitute. I would feel the same if the substitute flag were a Confederate flag."

Ward said on one occasion, during a discussion of campus unrest, Garrison told a gathering of union leaders at the Seaman's International Union Hall here that "no university has been burned to the ground that didn't deserve to be burned down."

WARD SAID because of the "Clay Shaw debacle" and other failures of leadership, Garrison does not deserve reelection.

He added that Harry Connick, another candidate for DA, is "no acceptable alternative to Garrison."

"Mr. Connick is running as a white knight without sin," Ward said. "He is running as a reformer as Mr. Garrison did eight years ago. Mr. Connick, as Mr. Garrison did in 1961, has the support of The Times-Picayune, the States-Item, the Metropolitan Crime Commission and the rest of the small clique that has run this city for years."

"I'm no white knight," Ward said. "I've fought for what I believe and I carry scars for it. I thought the Clay Shaw case was a bad one and I refused to participate in it."

"I OFFER AN independent candidacy. I offer an independent DA's office, not tied to any mayor. I'm a good prosecutor but I know when to be compassionate—as with young first offenders."

"I want to change laws that are too harsh—like the one that prescribes a five-year sentence for a first-time marijuana offender."

"But my record also shows that I am a tough prosecutor against professional criminals who are today our city's greatest problem," Ward said.