

DA Refused To Probe LL&T, Ward Charges

District attorney candidate Charles Ray Ward today told a meeting of civic clubs incumbent DA Jim Garrison declined to investigate the Louisiana Loan and Thrift Corp. after the firm went bankrupt despite Ward's recommendation that an investigation was needed.

Garrison was not present at the Council of the Civic Association of New Orleans at the Andrew Jackson Restaurant.

The incumbent DA was represented by First Assistant DA James L. Alcock. Also present were DA candidates Harry Connick and Ross Scaccia.

WARD MADE his remarks about Garrison's refusal to investigate LL&T during a discussion about Connick's disclosure yesterday of documents purported to show that Garrison held 30,000 shares of LL&T stock and used that to secure a \$25,000 note.

Alcock said Garrison is suffering from a slipped disc and may face surgery after the election.

The assistant DA also said Connick's disclosures do not reveal anything damaging to Garrison. He said if Garrison held a \$25,000 note on the bankrupt corporation, bankruptcy officials would be trying to collect the sum.

Connick said Garrison still has not explained why his signature appears on the \$25,000 promissory note and a stock transfer form.

"HE DENIES it because he can't admit it—because it's a form of corruption," Connick said.

Scaccia said all he has heard throughout the campaign is a hate campaign waged between Connick and Garrison.

Scaccia said Garrison does not deserve reelection because of the unsuccessful prosecution of Clay Shaw and Connick does not deserve election because he is too inexperienced to be DA.

"It is possible the voters are as confused as I am by all this rhetoric but I hope they will be able to pierce through the fog," Scaccia said.

In explaining his remarks about Garrison's refusal to investigate LL&T, Ward said depositors of LL&T came to him when he was first assistant DA to Garrison.

WARD SAID after preliminary investigations, he felt there was a need for the Orleans Parish DA to look into the possibility of fraud and he recommended this to Garrison.

Ward said Garrison told him, "Charlie, we're handling too many billiard balls now and if we choose to pick one up, we may drop them all." The reference was apparently to the fact that Garrison at the time was deeply involved in the prosecution of Shaw.

TWENTY-TWO

Ward Blasts Garrison on Shaw Case

"While the Clay Shaw investigation was going on New Orleans became the murder capital of the United States," District Attorney candidate Charles R. Ward told members of the Carrollton Kiwanis Club yesterday.

Speaking at a luncheon at the Ye Old College Inn, Ward said New Orleans became the "laughing stock of the country," but we have a lot to be proud of.

"Too many people overlook the fact that 12 men picked by Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison had the desire to help New Orleans and returned a just verdict of not guilty," he said.

"This proves the validity of the jury system . . . and something we can be proud of," Ward added as he explained that during Garrison's investigations, he (Ward) was in charge of all matters in the DA's office not pertaining to the Shaw case.

Ward explained that as first assistant DA during the Garrison investigations, he agreed to conduct the routine prosecutions — murder, robbery, rape, etc. — with half the usual complement of assistants as 12 were assigned solely to the Shaw case.

He emphasized that he did not participate in the investigations because he did not believe Garrison's theory concerning the Kennedy assassination and he "could best serve the community by prosecuting criminals."

In reference to DA candidate Harry Connick, Ward said, "Connick is impeccably honest," but argued that Connick's background as a defense attorney does not lend itself to the position of chief prosecutor.

"We do not need defense-minded people in the DA's office," he stressed, adding that such an office would overlook the right of society to protection against criminals."

The DA's office has "got to have a man who has had experience with prosecution. . . . a DA who knows about life . . . a DA who knows when to come down hard and when to be compassionate," Ward continued.