

Garrison Crossed Racial Lines To Win New Orleans Primary

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NEW ORLEANS, Nov. 9—Jim Garrison, the controversial District Attorney of New Orleans, won yesterday's election with the kind of populist coalition that Southern liberals must dream about.

An analysis of the returns from the Democratic primary, in which the District Attorney won a clear majority and avoided a runoff, shows that the bulk of Mr. Garrison's support came from Negroes and working-class whites.

With 405 of all precincts reported, Mr. Garrison was ahead of his chief rival, Harry F. Connick, 83,384 to 61,441, with two other candidates way behind. Mr. Garrison had 53 per cent of the vote.

In a 12-man race for Mayor, James E. Fitzmorris Jr. was far ahead with about 35 per cent of the vote. But he will face Maurice Landrien, president of the City Council, in a runoff Dec. 13. Victor H. Schiro, the Mayor of New Orleans, is retiring.

Election Is Probable

Mr. Garrison's first primary victory virtually assures his election to a third term. He will face a largely unknown Republican opponent in the general election in April. Democrats make up 96.8 per cent of the registered voters in New Orleans.

Mr. Garrison made it clear on television last night that he regarded yesterday's vote as an expression of confidence in the handling of his investigation of the assassination of President Kennedy.

He said the investigation was finished, but added that he still intended to prosecute Clay L. Shaw on a charge of perjury. Businessman, was acquitted in a jury trial last March of a charge of conspiring to kill Mr. Kennedy.

Mr. Shaw testified during his trial that he had not known David Ferrie, another figure in the Garrison conspiracy inquiry. Mr. Garrison contended Mr. Shaw did know Mr. Ferrie, who is now dead, and charged Mr. Shaw with perjury. No trial date has been set.

'He Goes to Trial'

Asked by a television interviewer where yesterday's election left the Shaw affair, Mr. Garrison replied, "He goes to trial. He goes to trial."



United Press International

Jim Garrison, New Orleans District Attorney, at a post election celebration.

Political analysts here say that Mr. Garrison's primary victory was due to a variety of factors ranging from anti-establishment sentiment to Mr. Garrison's strong identification with the memory of President Kennedy.

Among working class whites, he is popular for "standing up" to the Federal Government. He charged repeatedly during his

two-year investigation that the Government, particularly the Central Intelligence Agency, was trying to thwart his effort to discover the truth.

Mr. Connick, whose appeal was largely to middle and upper-class whites who thought the Garrison investigation was irrational, became a victim of this anti-Government sentiment.

The Government's Man

Mr. Garrison subtly portrayed Mr. Connick, a former assistant United States attorney here, as the Government's man perhaps actually put in the race secretly by Government forces.

Mr. Garrison was actively supported by a number of influential political organizations in the black and the poor white communities.

Black precincts voted for him even heavier than the poor white precincts did and probably gave him the edge he needed to avoid a runoff.

Mr. Garrison was well known in the black community and his opponents were not. He had a reputation for being friendly to Negroes, although he was not regarded as a civil rights liberal.

Perhaps the greatest reason for his popularity among blacks, observers here believe, was his reputation—deserved or not—for trying to solve the murder of President Kennedy, one of the most beloved white men in black America.

When it became known that his chief challenger, Mr. Connick, had gained the support of a large number of wealthy businessmen, as well as both daily newspapers here, an unwitting alliance of the poor of both colors against "the establishment" became likely. The analysts note that this is an exceptionally class-conscious city.