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**Garrison Should Take
Leave of Absence**

Under federal charges of taking payoffs to protect pinball gambling, District Attorney Jim Garrison should take a leave of absence from his post as Orleans Parish prosecutor until disposition of the allegations.

It does not prejudice his case to recognize publicly that these charges cast shadows over operations of his important law enforcement office.

Since work of that office must continue meantime, we believe its functioning would be helped under the circumstances if Mr. Garrison turned over the reins to an assistant.

Moreover, it is expected that Mr. Garrison, in preparing his defense in the case, which assertedly involves two police officials and seven others, will likely give high priority to personal matters in weeks and months to come. While this is wholly understandable, it should not interfere with matters of state law enforcement handled by the district attorney's office.