

Garrison Claims 'Smear'

District Attorney Jim Garrison said today that federal charges that he failed to report more than \$60,000 in income are "totally devoid of truth and are plainly designed to serve as a smear."

Answering charges that he received \$13,500 in legal fees from the bankrupt Louisiana Loan and Thrift Corp., that he got \$850 in dividends from LL&T and another \$48,000 worth of "protection money" from illegal gambling businesses, Garrison claimed the ac-

tion was continued harassment on behalf of the federal government.

"I have never received \$13,500 in legal fees from the Louisiana Loan and Thrift Corporation," Garrison said. "I have never participated in the operation of Louisiana Loan and Thrift, never given it any legal advice, nor have I ever been in its building during its operation."

"IN FACT, I have never received one dollar in legal fees from Louisiana

Loan and Thrift, nor would there be any reason for me to be given such money."

Garrison said it would be interesting to see the federal government find his endorsement on an LL&T dividend check inasmuch as he "never received such a check nor made such an endorsement."

"With regard to the Washington Big-Lie-Operation's charge that I received \$48,000 of 'protection money' from illegal gambling businesses, I have never received 'protection money' from gambling or from any other illegal operation."

"If I had been playing the game that way, I would not only have been smart enough to pay the income tax on it but I have no doubt that had I chosen to be crooked, I could easily have made much more than that."

Garrison charged that the American people should be growing increasingly concerned about the "high-handed use of lying and deception by our government in Washington."

HE SAID elements of the government are deeply involved in political crime to maintain power.

The allegations that Garrison did not report these earnings were contained in a bill of particulars filed in federal court Friday by government attorneys.

Garrison already faces charges that he accepted bribes to protect the pinball industry interests and was later accused of failing to report his proper income for the years 1965, 1966 and 1967.