

ES-ITEM

NEW ORLEANS

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# On Road Back To Health, Garrison Says

District Attorney Jim Garrison made one of his first appearances in months last night, saying that he had been gravely ill but is now on the road back to good health.

Garrison's appearance at a party given for state Sen. Nat G. Kiefer and state Rep.-Elect Charles Borrello was a sur-

prise as the DA has been little seen since he began suffering from a serious back ailment in 1969 that has required surgery and constant treatment.

Appearing fit and in an amiable, gregarious mood, Garrison told well-wishers that he had been seriously ill,

saying to one group that he had been "close to the grave." He said that he now feels he is well on his way to regaining his health.

The three-term DA, who became an international figure for his unsuccessful prosecution of Clay Shaw in the President Kennedy assassination

case, has been indicted by federal grand juries for gambling, public bribery and income tax evasion.

He has denied all charges and his attorneys have sought without success to date to have the charges dropped on technical grounds.