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Subject: New Orleans Times-Picayune Editorial on Connick; Sunday, February 25, 1996
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Richard Angelico came quietly. No policemen with bullhornson the sidewalk, no SWAT team battering down his door.He couldn't take it on the lam because, after many years as a leading sleuth of New Orleans television, he has one of the most familiar faces around.Poor sucker probably thought he could beat the rap, but he didn't reckon with those two dedicated crime fighters, DA Harry Connick and Judge Frank Marullo. Angelico got three months suspended, was fined \$100 and plans an appeal. His accomplice, gumshoe Gary Raymond, had already been sentenced to six months in the slammer, but is out on bond while he also appeals.Angelico and Raymond may not be in quite the same league as Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, but the story of their criminal career will shock and amaze.It began last June when Connick appeared before the federal Assassination Records Review Board to answer questions about his wacky predecessor Jim Garrison's investigation of the JFK assassination, which culminated with the trial of Clay Shaw on trumped-up charges the jury dismissed out of hand.Connick told the review board that records of that investigation disappeared before he took office in 1974. Raymond, who worked as an investigator for Connick at the time, was somewhat startled to hear it since he had many boxes of testimony from Garrison's grand jury in his possession.Raymond called Angelico to say that Connick was lying. Raymond said that Connick had instructed him to burn the records in 1974, but that he had hung onto them because of their historical value. Angelico said that he checked with two of his attorneys to make sure it was safe to accept the grand jury records from Raymond, which he did on the understanding that he would later forward them to the Assassination Records Review Board. Angelico found nothing new in the transcripts, and revealed none of the testimony in his report. He did, however, get Connick on camera to repeat his assertion that the records had disappeared on Garrison's watch, and then blindsided him with an affidavit provided by Raymond.A few days later Connick hauled both of them before a grand jury and in due course had them indicted under a statute that forbids anyone with "confidential access" to reveal information about grand jury proceedings.That wording, according to Angelico's attorneys, means that the law applies only to officials in the criminal justice system, although Connick argues that it is "very clear" and covers journalists too. Marullo agreed with Connick and also rejected arguments that journalists have a First Amendment right to report on grand jury testimony.Regardless, this prosecution is a joke, for Angelico's report did not contain any great revelations, unless there are people around, for instance, who were startled to learn that Marina Oswald testified before the grand jury. Every
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