

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
OF FLORIDA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF DADE

SPRING TERM A. D. 1956

FINAL REPORT OF THE GRAND JURY

Filed

November 13, 1956

**Circuit Judge Presiding**

**ROBERT H. ANDERSON**

**Officers and Members of the Grand Jury**

**LELAND C. SHEPARD, Foreman**

**ANNITE C. RUGGLES, Vice Foreman**

**JOHN R. HARLOW, Treasurer**

**PAUL L. ANDRE, Clerk**

**DOROTHEA L. CAMFIELD, Assistant Clerk**

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**Bailiff**

**MAURICE MOUNSEY**

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TO THE HONORABLE ROBERT H. ANDERSON, CIRCUIT JUDGE  
OF THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA

We, the Grand Jury, in and for Dade County, Florida, for the 1956 Spring Term of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, present this our Final Report.

On May 8, 1956, we were impaneled by the Honorable Robert H. Anderson, Circuit Judge. The Grand Jury held sixty official meetings of the full body, and various committees met at regular and frequent intervals to facilitate the work.

A list of capital and routine criminal cases considered by this Grand Jury is presented herewith, indicating the action taken thereon:

<u>Defendant</u>	<u>Charge</u>	<u>Action Taken</u>
OSCAR WILL BURKE	First Degree Murder	True Bill
SAMMY LEE TAYLOR	First Degree Murder	True Bill
REID COLLETT	Rape	True Bill
SOPHIE RUZA	First Degree Murder	True Bill
JOSEPH W. WHITE	Rape (Two Counts)	True Bill
DENNIS WILLIAMS	First Degree Murder	True Bill
ARTHUR J. PALMQUIST	First Degree Murder	True Bill
NELLIE MINTZ	First Degree Murder	True Bill
JAMES W. MAYO	Rape	True Bill
HORACE GRIFFIN	First Degree Murder	True Bill
VICTORIA ADDERLEY	First Degree Murder	True Bill
TINEY LUTHER EDWARDS	Rape	True Bill
JAMES WILLIAMS	First Degree Murder	True Bill
LARRY G. GREEN	Rape	True Bill
S. Q. ARMSTRONG	Manslaughter	True Bill
JACK BERNARD LEVINE	Rape	True Bill

<u>Defendant</u>	<u>Charge</u>	<u>Action Taken</u>
JAMES R. THOMAS	First Degree Murder	True Bill
WILLIE MAE BRADY	First Degree Murder	True Bill
JESSE CLARENCE COLEMAN	Rape	True Bill
ROBERT E. HATHAWAY	First Degree Murder	True Bill
FRANCIS A. BENEDETTO ) L. S. PLATT ) BERNARD O. WILSON )	Bribery	True Bill
BERTHA LEE BROWN	First Degree Murder	No True Bill
JESSIE LEE HARDISON	Rape	True Bill
GEORGE BRENNAN	First Degree Murder	True Bill
PHILLIS S. PRATT	First Degree Murder	True Bill
EDWARD EDWARDS	Perjury	True Bill
CLYDE FYFE	Perjury	True Bill
JOHN C. HOSIE	Perjury	True Bill

## GRAND JURY SYSTEM

Perhaps no instrument of democratic government is more misunderstood than the Grand Jury. Its function is not only to indict for crimes, or exonerate where charges without foundation are brought before it, but also to serve as an investigating, reporting and advisory body in all areas which directly affect the public interest. As such, it is truly the watchguard of the rights of a free people. In speaking of the great importance of Grand Jury activities, the Florida Supreme Court has stated:

"It is by dispatching in a fair and impartial way matters brought to their attention that the Grand Jury becomes the buffer between the free citizen and arbitrary power."

Since the function of the Grand Jury is to serve and protect the people of Dade County and their interests, there is no one in the community who is not, directly or indirectly, affected by its investigations. Therefore, we urge that all citizens cooperate fully with each Grand Jury by providing any information which may aid in its deliberations.

We recommend that the Dade County delegation to the State Legislature propose a revision of the Grand Jury Law to enlarge the Grand Jury Commission to at least ten persons. These could well be two persons appointed by each County Commissioner, representing each county district. This Grand Jury Commission could fill annually the Grand Jury Box with the names of at least 300 qualified persons selected from the volunteer Grand Jury Register. It is recommended that, according to existing law, this Register be checked and purged of persons not qualified to serve. Also, the Grand Jury Commission shall ask the Sheriff's Department to check and report back the record of the prospective jurors. The Court could then select from this Grand Jury Box the persons to be subpoenaed for jury duty.

Until such time as the above recommendation or any further improvement of

the Grand Jury system can be made, it is strongly urged that more citizens of Dade County volunteer for Grand Jury duty by registering in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, First Floor, Dade County Court House.

It is further recommended that more information concerning the duties and requirements of Grand Jury service be made known to the public. We urge the newspapers, radio and television, as a public service, to inform the people of Dade County how to register for Grand Jury duty, what such duty involves, and what are juror qualifications. We believe these matters are not generally understood. We also feel that the public should interest itself in the entire contents of each Interim and Final Report issued by every Grand Jury.

We also recommend that through these media, business firms be made aware of their civic duty to encourage their employees to serve as jurors. Even though such service entails hardship and personal sacrifice to both employer and employee, it should be viewed as community service and a very real contribution to the life and welfare of Dade County and its citizens.

#### JUDICIAL MATTERS

In accordance with the recommendations of the Fall Term 1955 Grand Jury, this Grand Jury spent a great deal of time investigating the Dade County Courts. On September 21, 1956, we issued an Interim Report with attached statistical data which speaks for itself. However, we do not consider our investigations final. The Dade County Grand Jury deploras certain conditions in the judicial system which have come to its attention, and which have produced a current lack of confidence in and respect for our courts, not only by the public, but by some members of the Bar and Bench.

It is not our purpose to castigate the entire judiciary of the Circuit Court which contains worthy men dedicated to a conscientious discharge of their official duties. But since, by the laws of the State of Florida, Circuit Court Judges are accountable only to the electorate every six years, and are liable only to impeachment, we urge that succeeding juries continue to interest themselves in the Dade County Courts, broadening their inquiry to assist in correcting irregularities which may exist.

We believe that no public official, elected or appointed, should be above

questioning concerning the discharge of his official duties, and we believe that any Grand Jury should be free to investigate, deliberate and render its report on sworn testimony without intimidation or threatened litigation. Therefore, we respectfully request that legislation be enacted to make Grand Jury reports privileged. Further, that the State of Florida be required to furnish defense counsel to members of Grand Juries who by reason of their reports or presentations are sued for money damages.

We also urge that any State Attorney disagreeing with the Charge given by the Judge to an incoming Grand Jury be required to state in Open Court his objection at the time of impanelment in order that the work of the jury be not delayed.

We quote from a speech by Mr. Glenn R. Winters, (Journal of the American Judicature Society, Volume 34, Page 173) - "..... I believe that the institutions of justice are vital to the working of democracy, that the courts are no stronger nor better than their judges, and that anything that can be done to dignify, strengthen and protect them in their daily work of promoting American unity by smoothing out and resolving disputes among their fellow Americans is a direct contribution to the cause of freedom."

With this in mind, we recommend:

1. That the Dade County Circuit Court Judges resume the monthly meetings provided for in their "Rules of Practice in Circuit Court of Dade County." (Page 5, paragraph 4.) We deplore the existence of admitted personality clashes which have been among the judiciary to the extent that judges' conferences have not been held for approximately two years. We feel that members of the judiciary should be of sufficient stature to subordinate personal differences in the interest of harmony and the dignity of the bench. Until this is done, the maximum public confidence in the Circuit Court will not be restored.

2. That Circuit Judges adjust their vacation schedules so that sufficient judges



are on duty at all times in order that the functioning of the Court should not be delayed during the summer months. Also, that the judges set up some procedure for controlling voluntary absenteeism.

3. The Florida Constitution provides that the Circuit Judge holding the earliest appointment will be the Senior Judge of the Circuit. This Grand Jury recommends that the above provision to the Constitution be amended to provide rotating Senior Judges within a county.

4. It has been brought to this Grand Jury's attention that cases in the Circuit Court have been re-assigned from one Judge to another by the Senior Circuit Judge. This Grand Jury recommends that this practice should be prohibited, except where both interested Judges agree that the transfer would be in the interest of justice.

5. That each Grand Jury continue the statistical table of Circuit Court appointments and make it a part of each final report.

6. That the Supreme Court of Florida be given power to suspend a Circuit Judge from office for sufficient cause until such time as his case comes before the Legislature for consideration. We suggest such legislation be presented to the 1957 Legislature by our Dade County delegation.

7. That appropriate and extensive publicity be given to the purpose and activity of the Florida Judicial Council created by the Legislature to recommend changes in the judiciary section of our State Constitution.

8. That the Judicial Council, if possible, accelerate its study of judicial systems and present its recommendations for an overall plan for the courts.

9. These changes in the Office of the Clerk of Records:

We have learned that the Clerk's Office has set up a system called "blind filing" for the filing of all suits in the Circuit Court. The system is so planned and arranged that no one can predetermine the division to which a case will be assigned. This system is based on mathematical computation and merits the

praise of the Grand Jury. However, we recommend:

- a. The enforcement of the five day limit on the length of time a file may be kept out of this office.
- b. That some procedure comparable to a standard library system be established so that an accurate check can be kept on files withdrawn and returned. If such a system makes necessary the employment of additional personnel, we suggest this be done at the earliest possible moment to further enhance the efficiency of this office and its service to ever-growing Dade County.

#### DADE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

The method and procedure for the determination of disciplinary matters and grievances against members of the bar have been of concern to this Grand Jury. This concern stems from the length of time that it is taking for any definitive action to be forthcoming with reference to reports of our predecessor Grand Jury, as well as of this Grand Jury, concerning conduct of certain members of the Bar and Judiciary.

We find that the Dade County Bar Association is a voluntary association numbering as members approximately 1100 of the approximate number of 2000 practising attorneys in Dade County. The Dade County Bar Association exercises limited jurisdiction in matters of grievances against its members, but has no power to disbar. It can only reprimand or expel from membership in the Dade County Bar Association any member who has been found guilty of unprofessional conduct warranting such action. It has no subpoena powers and no really effective investigative jurisdiction. The Grievance Committee of the Dade County Bar Association does hear and determine a certain volume of private complaints against its members and, so far as we are able to determine, does a relatively effective job within its limited scope to maintain high ethical standards for its members.

Under the Integration Rule adopted by the Supreme Court of Florida, the power to investigate, discipline and disbar is placed in The Florida Bar, a state-wide compulsory organization representing every lawyer admitted to practice in Florida. The Florida Bar is the official legally constituted body in Florida charged with the responsibility of investigating, hearing, and determining charges and complaints against lawyers, and it is to The Florida Bar that this Grand Jury and its predecessor has forwarded charges involving members of the Bar and Judiciary. We have had the rules of the Supreme Court of Florida governing The Florida Bar explained to us, and we recognize that under those rules all disciplinary proceedings in The Florida Bar are shrouded in complete secrecy until the Final Judgment of the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar is filed in the Supreme Court, unless those under charges agree that the hearings be made public.

When the first Grand Jury report was made public last spring, the Dade County Bar Association took cognizance of the report and called upon The Florida Bar to complete promptly and thoroughly its investigation and determination of the matter and resolved that the Dade County Bar Association lend full assistance and cooperation in connection with such investigation. We are advised that because of the secrecy of The Florida Bar regulations laid down by the Supreme Court, the committee appointed by the Dade County Bar Association has been furnished no information concerning the pendency or status of the matter. The Dade County Bar Association has several times called upon The Florida Bar to expedite its hearings because of the importance of the matter to the people, the lawyers and the judges of Dade County. When the members of the previous Grand Jury were sued, the Dade County Bar Association resolved to intervene in that action as a friend of the court to assert the immunity of the Grand Jurors to liability for damages. The Dade County Bar Association should be commended for the actions it has taken and criticism should not be leveled at the Dade County Bar Association for inaction in the matter of the Grand Jury reports.

## DADE COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM

Although the Dade County public schools were recessed for summer vacation during the major part of this jury's term, considerable time and attention was devoted to matters pertaining to the Dade County school system.

### Insurance

A detailed study of the school insurance program convinced this jury that the overall program has shown marked improvement during the past five years under the supervision of Mr. H. S. Brannen, resulting in considerable savings to Dade County taxpayers. However, we recommend that the Dade County Board of Public Instruction employ or appoint from its present staff, someone to work with him. In filling any position in the school system, administrative or otherwise, we urge that every effort be made to obtain persons fully qualified by training or experience. Undeniably essential are loyalty and fine character traits, but they of themselves are not sufficient qualifications for positions which demand specific educational or technical requirements as well. This jury also recommends that the Board give further and continued study to self-insurance, and some thought to proposed legislation for combining all county insurance under one administrator.

A request was made to the administrative staff that all children holding accident insurance be issued identification cards proving ownership of policy. This has already been done.

### Records

Acting on complaints received from some parents, investigation was made into the cumulative records of students. These contain a great deal of personal data which school authorities regard as important information for both students and teachers throughout school years, and for job and character reference. We suggest that continuing effort be made to protect the secrecy of these files and that they be opened only on authorization and supervision of the School Principal.

#### Buildings and Transportation

Elementary, junior and senior high schools throughout the area were visited by members of the Grand Jury. The jury believes that the citizens of Dade County can be proud of the public school system and commends all those responsible for the maintenance and operation of our schools. The school bus transportation operates for the most part efficiently within the limits imposed on it by law. However, it is obvious that in certain areas some means of transportation should be found for children not eligible for school bus transportation, but who must travel hazardous areas to get to school. It is also apparent that in some areas the buses are overcrowded and the schedules maintained work some hardships. We suggest that interested parent groups within the schools so affected undertake a solution of this problem as one worthy of their best efforts.

#### Lunchroom Commissary

The Fall Term 1953 Grand Jury investigated this department extensively and on its recommendation, the Commissary was discontinued.

In 1954, in the process of liquidation, stock record cards on some canned pie apples indicated more on hand than the actual physical inventory showed. After a complete investigation by this jury, recommendations have been made to the School Board that a claim for the loss be filed with H. S. Brannen, who is in charge of school insurance.

### CITY OF HIALEAH

#### Liquor, Beer & Wine Licenses

Grand Jury investigation of this municipality revealed that the issuance and transfer of all beer, wine and liquor licenses are handled by three members of the City Council sitting as the Beverage Committee. Further investigation showed that this Beverage Committee had recommended to the City Council, which passed and approved, the issuance of five beer and wine licenses contrary to the recommendation of the Zoning Board of Hialeah. Also, that an attempt had been made by the City

Council upon the recommendation of the Beverage Committee, illegally to issue a liquor license wherein the applicant's place of business was closer than the prescribed distance from an established church. Also, that the City Council had voted a liquor license without first having obtained an F. B. I. fingerprint check of such applicant as required, and that applications for licenses or transfers were passed without proper investigation of true ownership of such applicants.

Two indictments were issued by this Grand Jury against two members of the City Council of Hialeah for accepting a bribe to influence their vote in favor of a liquor license transfer.

#### Zoning Infractions

Grand Jury investigation showed that many zoning variances are granted by the City Council of Hialeah which disregard recommendations of the Hialeah City Zoning Board. In the City of Hialeah Zoning Code, there are certain requirements which do not conform with State Statutes. Attention is called to recent violations of the code which were dismissed by Hialeah City Court on the ground that these irregularities were governed by State statutes.

Investigation into a number of successful applications for variances before the City of Hialeah Council indicated that in a number of these cases, applicants had entered into a professional service agreement with one or more of the city councilmen prior to making the application. Such professional service contracts by Hialeah city councilmen is a definite conflict of interest.

#### Law Enforcement

Investigation made by the Grand Jury indicated that law enforcement in Hialeah is hampered by interference on the part of some city officials.

In several recent cases, the Police Department was requested to make changes in arrest records and release of prisoners without proper authority. We criticize this interference.

The Hialeah Police Department should be commended for the steps it has taken to raise the standards of law enforcement for this municipality.

City Charter

On the basis of sworn testimony given before this body concerning the change in the proposed City Charter presented to the Special Session of the State Legislature in 1956, we find that the changes in the boundaries of Hialeah were made in accordance with the Zoning and Engineering Departments' recommendations.

Recommendations:

1. That the office of the City Attorney be transferred to City Hall and this office be in close proximity to the Police Department.
2. That the City Attorney and his assistants be available to assist the Police Department in the preparation of search warrants and other processes prior to an arrest, and confer with the arresting officers before the trial.
3. That the City of Hialeah establish a policy whereby the City Council will not consider an application for new issue or transfer of an alcoholic beverage license unless and until the Police Department has cleared such applicant with respect to fingerprint check at the F. B. I., true ownership, and other pertinent data regarding the application. The Police Department should certify to the City Council that such an investigation has been made and that the applicant is qualified under the City Code.
4. That the City Council should establish a policy delegating to the Police Department the authority and responsibility for necessary investigation and policing of all establishments holding an alcoholic beverage license of any type. The Police Department should be held fully responsible for all such licensed establishments conforming with city and state laws which govern such operations.
5. That the City Council should establish a policy for delegation of responsibility to the Zoning Board for proper inspection and certification for applicants and business sites to insure that they conform with city and state laws regulating zoning.
6. All City of Hialeah ordinances should be reviewed by the Hialeah City Attorney and brought up to date so there is no conflict between the state statutes and city ordinances.

NORTH MIAMI BEACH

On the basis of information furnished, an investigation was begun into certain activities in this municipality.

After our investigation was underway, our investigators reported the State Attorney's office was making an investigation, apparently paralleling that of this Grand Jury.

The State Attorney advised this was a carry-over from the previous Grand Jury. Our investigation was deferred in favor of allowing the State Attorney to handle the matter.

MIAMI POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Spring Term 1956 Grand Jury was much disturbed over reported thefts, and breaking and entries by Miami Police officers.

Chief Walter E. Headley and Assistant Chief J. A. Youell appeared before this body and furnished information as to the police officers involved and the steps taken to clear up the matter. They also furnished information relative to plans now being made to rid the department of unworthy and corrupt policemen, and establish a necessary security system to prevent future occurrences of this type. We call this matter to the attention of the incoming Grand Jury.

FLORIDA STATE BEVERAGE DEPARTMENT

We, the Spring Term 1956 Grand Jury, recommend to the Florida State Beverage Department that the Dade County District be reviewed for:

1. Increase in personnel. Such increase to include a capable person to review and maintain accurate records on all beverage licenses in this area, and that such person have authorization to inspect the records in all municipalities in the county. Said records shall reflect detailed reports



on all law violations pertaining to any licensed beverage establishment in said municipality. Each municipality shall be required to report any violations to the State Beverage Department.

2. That such person shall establish periodic checks by investigation; that all reports on such investigations shall be duly filed and where warnings are issued, a proper follow-up be made to see that violations are corrected.
3. That proper job qualifications be established for all persons employed in this district, and a review be made of present employees to see that they are qualified.
4. That Section 561.44 (Licensing Vendors Near School or Church) be clarified on the following basis:
  - A. Clarify points of measurement, i. e., churches.  
Distance from main entrance, side entrance, or any entrance from bar to main entrance, side entrance, or any entrance to church. Clarify if entrance to Church's Sunday School, Nursery, Church School, or Church Parish shall be considered an entrance. If Church main entrance only, then what basis shall be used to determine which is the main entrance.  
Clarify method of measuring distance to insure uniform standards for such measurements in all cases.
  - B. Uniform Beverage Code be adopted for all municipalities and the State.
  - C. Establish a set rule or promote necessary legislation so that the State of Florida will not issue any beverage license until first approved by local municipality.

- D. Establish ruling or appropriate legislation whereby violation of municipal ordinances can lead to revocation of license.

#### MORTGAGE BROKERS

We received a number of complaints concerning excessive fees and interest rates on loans made by mortgage brokers.

Evidence reflected some merit to these complaints, but when the laws under which these companies operate were checked, no illegal actions could be established.

We believe that while there are many good companies in the community, such companies as those complained about should be controlled by:

1. A State Board or Commission.
2. The Florida Realty Board.

This control would, of necessity, establish a fixed basis for maximum and minimum fees, and a stipulation of a closing cost fee.

#### Recommendation:

We recommend to the Florida Legislature that at its next regular session, it take this matter under consideration and enact legislation which will control these concerns for the utmost protection of the small borrowers.

#### INVESTIGATION OF BUREAU OF LATHING & PLASTERING OF DADE COUNTY, INC.

The Grand Jury has investigated the Bureau of Lathing & Plastering of Dade County, Inc., 3350 N. W. 7th Avenue, Miami, Florida. This organization, a non-profit corporation, was established to better the plastering trade, make inspections, and issue inspection certificates to members.

The Bureau has some 84 members who are contractors employing union labor. These members have signed compliance cards which indicate that the members will buy Bureau inspection certificates for each job and will conform to the by-laws of the organization.

Inspection charges, fixed by the Bureau are \$2.00 per house on projects of ten or more houses, and on other work \$3.00 per \$1,000 of the plastering contract. The inspections for the Bureau are handled by two men who attempt to cover the entire county, giving thorough separate inspections to each job.

On the basis of sworn testimony, this Grand Jury finds that because of the obvious impossibility of two inspectors to fulfill the inspection requirements over such an extensive area, that the original purpose of the Bureau has been lost and it has now become merely a means of raising money through the sale of inspection stickers to pay the salaries of the two inspectors. This jury further finds that since the local plasterers' union is obliged by its own regulations to supply skilled men to the contractors, the quality of the work should be the union responsibility, as well as the responsibility of the County and Municipality Inspectors, and the inspector for the Federal Housing Administration. The use of this private non-profit corporation utilizing the B.M.P.I.U. No. 7 as an enforcing agent is clearly not in the best interest of the public and against our democratic principle of a man's right to work as provided in the Constitution of the State of Florida.

As a result of the above findings, the Grand Jury recommends that the building departments of Dade County and municipalities strengthen their building codes for rigid inspection of all lathing and plastering. The Grand Jury also questions the value and propriety of the existence of the Bureau of Lathing & Plastering of Dade County, Inc. which adds to construction costs for the owner, and suggests that the Attorney General of the State of Florida investigate this organization to determine whether or not the charter should be revoked.

## JACKSON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

On October 30, 1956, the Grand Jury issued an Interim Report containing some hitherto unreported facts concerning the hospital situation in Dade County. This was done in the hope that the public might fully inform itself before the Bond Election and the jury regrets that the full text of that Interim Report was not published in either daily newspaper.

The Grand Jury finds that Jackson Memorial Hospital has equipment facilities and medical personnel which make it one of the outstanding hospitals of the South, fully adequate in its present status as a teaching hospital.

We commend the establishment of an Observation Ward, as well as the improvements made in the Emergency Department in accordance with previous Grand Jury recommendations.

We again urge the incoming County Commission to appoint, as recommended in the Agnew Report, an Advisory Committee on Hospitals and Health for Dade County to assist the commission in developing a long range program for expansion of hospital facilities.

We also recommend:

1. That immediate improvements be made in the Colored Ward. If the present budget does not provide sufficient funds for maintenance of present facilities, as well as for increased facilities, it should be immediately provided.
2. That more private beds should be provided for colored patients who are well able and willing to pay for this service.
3. Currently, the partly finished third floor of the Chest Unit Building is being used for storage, but it is planned that this floor be completed to accommodate 34 additional beds. Under modern treatment of tuberculosis patients, their hospital stay is considerably shortened. Because of this, and since the State Sanitorium at Lantana, Florida

is only partially filled, we suggest that the money planned for completion of this building be diverted to more urgently needed facilities.

4. A continuing survey be made of the problems of the Institute in accordance with present plans.
5. That before existing buildings are demolished, the newly proposed buildings should be built on available sites.
6. That the six million dollars approved by the voters of Dade County in the recent bond election be spent for essential hospital facilities for the treatment and care of patients.
7. That a study be made of the operation cost of the Out Patient Pharmacy Department in the interest of further economy.  
Also that an immediate effort be made to accelerate the service of this department to out patients.
8. That the Accounting Department issue Financial and Operating Statements which will not be misleading. The cost of treating staff (non-payment) patients is paid for from tax funds, a fact not reflected in the statements.
9. That a prison ward be established at Jackson Memorial Hospital where persons charged with a felony, who need hospitalization, can be kept under proper guard.
10. That the incoming Grand Jury make a continuing study of the duties and compensation of hospital and University of Miami Medical School personnel, inquiring into the overlapping of duties and authority.

DADE COUNTY HOSPITAL - OLD FOLKS' HOME - CHILDREN'S HOME  
KENDALL, FLORIDA

A detailed inspection was made of all facilities connected with the Dade County Hospital, Old Folks' Home, and the Children's Home at Kendall, Florida. Highest commendation should be given those charged with the responsibility of operating these institutions which are clean and well managed. However, these facilities

are extremely inadequate. The Dade County Hospital should be enlarged and the Old Folks' Home for the colored should be replaced immediately with a modern fireproof building. We urge the County Commission to give priority to enlarging and replacing these facilities so essential to the welfare of the county. We note that several preceding Grand Juries have made this same recommendation.

Due to the lack of hospital facilities at Kendall and the great need by the colored residents, we recommend that our County Commission take immediate steps to accept from the Lincoln Memorial Hospital of Goulds, Florida, a well constructed building and five acres of land. We urge that this be equipped as an Emergency Clinic for the colored residents of that area.

We also recommend that the County Commission keep the public informed by quarterly statements as to operational costs and income of our county owned hospitals.

#### MIAMI SANITORIUM

The Grand Jury commends the efforts of Charles A. Reed, the owner of the Miami Sanitorium, on the improvements which have been made in this institution.

Additional bathrooms have been installed and a new treatment room built. The kitchen and dining room have been enlarged and completely remodeled, tile floors and walls have been laid, air conditioning, fluorescent lights, and psychiatric windows installed - all at a cost of approximately \$130,000. The painting has not been completed at this date, but within a few weeks, we believe that all of the complaints made by previous juries will have been corrected.

#### DADE COUNTY JAIL

Inspection of the nineteenth through the twenty-fifth floors of the Dade County Court House included the jail and most of the Sheriff's Department. These six floors while neat and orderly, are extremely crowded with jail facilities and the Criminal Bureau of Investigation. Only one elevator operates between the nineteenth

and twenty-fifth floors and after inspection, we believe no prisoner can escape without aid from the inside. Since the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth floors which have been used for the City Jail are to be released, we urge the County Commission to assign these floors to the Sheriff's Office for expansion of county jail facilities. This Grand Jury commends the excellent work of the Criminal Bureau of Investigation and the work it is doing to solve the crimes being committed in Dade County.

Recommendations:

Because the County Jail extends over six floors, necessitating an expensive method of feeding prisoners, moving them between cells and courts, and because the Dade County Court House is overcrowded, we recommend, as have several preceding Grand Juries, that the County Commission in future over-all planning give serious consideration to the erection of a county jail. This jail not to be more than three stories high, and of sufficient size to house the Sheriff's Department, as well as the prisoners.

DADE COUNTY STOCKADE

This property located at 6100 Galloway Road is under the supervision of the County Commission (Road and Bridge District), and was established in 1930. The prisoners are used for road repair work, and maintenance in the county parks, and the operation of a laundry. All laundry for the county jail, homes and hospital is done here at a considerable savings to taxpayers. The kitchen for the prisoners is outmoded and should be remodeled, the floors and walls should be tiled for sanitation, and some windows eliminated by closing with blocks, thereby providing additional cabinet space.

Warden S. V. Sage is commended for the cleanliness of a well kept institution.

### DADE COUNTY POLICE

This law enforcement body is under the jurisdiction of the Dade County Commission. The 72 men who comprise this unit patrol all Port Authority and County Park properties and maintain men on duty at Jackson Memorial Hospital.

The Grand Jury commends the Dade County Police for their handling of thousands of visitors at Miami International Airport, and also for their efficient operation of the tower at 36th Street which controls the flow of traffic in and out of the airport.

Since the Home Rule Amendment has been passed by the voters of Dade County, this Grand Jury recommends that the Metropolitan Charter Board study the advisability of establishing a Police Commission.

### CITY JAILS

Inspections were made of the following jail facilities and we commend these cities for the excellent manner in which the Police Departments and jails are operated:

North Miami Beach

Miami Springs

Opa Locka

North Miami

Coral Gables

Miami Beach

Florida City

It is interesting to note that Florida City is the only community in Dade County having a Marshal.

The new police stations and jails in Homestead and South Miami were also inspected. These communities can be justly proud of the fine modern buildings which should be adequate for some years to come.



### CITY OF HIALEAH MUNICIPAL FACILITIES

When the Hialeah Police Department was inspected, it was found overcrowded and very poorly kept. Some of the police force are on the first floor of the City Hall and others on the second floor. Due to this condition, efficiency is much impaired.

#### City Jail

There are no facilities for female prisoners, except a small detention cell adjoining the police booking desk, which is used for overnight detention only. Females sentenced are sent to the Dade County Jail.

The male cell block on the second floor was found in a dirty condition at 11:00 A.M. of the day of our visit.

#### Recommendations:

Hialeah is a fast growing city and now has a population of approximately 45,000. Plans should be made at once to erect a modern police station with proper jail facilities. Then, the present City Hall would have sufficient space for all other departments for many years to come. Previous juries have made these same recommendations, but the City of Hialeah continues to ignore them.

### CITY OF MIAMI STOCKADE

This institution is well operated and managed. Since its maximum of 720 prisoners is often reached during the winter months and there is sufficient room for erection of another barrack, the Miami City Commission should be making plans for this addition.

A previous Grand Jury recommended purchase from Dade County of not less than 30 acres, which adjoins the stockade property, for the purpose of raising vegetables for the inmates. We are advised that the City of Miami is now in the process of purchasing five acres of this property. We recommend they give consideration to increasing this to 10 acres.

We also recommend that officials investigate the possibility of sending all prisoners who have received a jail sentence to the stockade, thereby relieving the City Jail.

POLICE AND MUNICIPAL COURT BUILDING  
CITY OF MIAMI

This new building provides the Police Department with excellent and much needed quarters for its entire operation. However, while adequate for present needs, there has been no apparent plan made for future expansion. It does afford relief to the overcrowded conditions under which the department has long been operating.

The new building houses the Miami Police Department, the City Jail, and two court rooms, one of which will be used for City Commission meetings. It is a fine modern building, well planned, and the Grand Jury commends Captain A. W. Anderson for his thoughtful work in planning the jail facilities in consultation with the architect. Considerable savings were effected for the taxpayers by the use of prison labor in making some of the equipment. Further savings will be effected because of the proximity of the jail to the court rooms in contrast to the distance between the City Jail and the court rooms in the Dade County Court House.

Maximum security and efficiency of operation will be possible in this new building of which the City of Miami can be proud.

JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS COURT

This Grand Jury inspected the Youth Hall and Court Building of the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court and found them in a well maintained and good condition.

We commend the fine work of the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court and feel that the citizens of Dade County can be justly proud of the international recognition it has received.

We recommend that the Dade County Budget Commission give favorable consideration to Judge W. H. Beckham's request for funds to expand the psychiatric services which would augment the excellent work being done by our juvenile court.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The members of this Grand Jury desire to express their gratitude and sincere thanks to the Honorable Robert H. Anderson, Circuit Judge, for his counsel and the invaluable assistance which he so willingly rendered on many occasions. His comprehensive charge to our body made us more fully realize our obligation and responsibility to the citizens of Dade County and inspired us to make a diligent effort to exercise our duties as Grand Jurors.

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We wish to express our gratitude to Governor LeRoy Collins for appointing Gunter Stephenson, State Attorney for the 10th Judicial Circuit, State Attorney to assist us during our term. His complete cooperation, able legal counsel, time and services are sincerely appreciated by this body. We feel it has been a privilege to have had his assistance.

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We also express our sincere appreciation to Assistant State Attorney Edward P. Swan for his conscientious and untiring work with this jury as Assistant to State Attorney Gunter Stephenson. We thank State Attorney George A. Brautigam for releasing him for this service.

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We wish to express our gratitude for the cooperation and help given this Grand Jury by Mr. E. B. Leatherman, Clerk of the Circuit Court, and his staff. Mr. Leatherman's help and cooperation has assisted greatly in accomplishing the work required during our term.

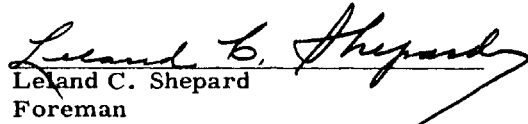
We express our appreciation to Daniel P. Sullivan of the Crime Commission of Greater Miami for his cooperation and assistance.

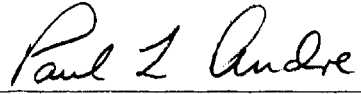
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Also assisting us in our work was Eleanor M. Robinson, Administrative Assistant to this Grand Jury. Her tireless efforts for this body are gratefully appreciated.

Mr. Maurice Mounsey, our Bailiff, cooperated with our body in the duties assigned to him.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Leland C. Shepard  
Foreman

Attest:   
Paul L. Andre  
Clerk

Date: November 13, 1956