

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

FALL TERM A. D. 1960

FINAL REPORT OF THE GRAND JURY

Filed

May 9, 1961

Circuit Judge Presiding

ROBERT L. FLOYD

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TO THE HONORABLE ROBERT L. FLOYD, CIRCUIT JUDGE
OF THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA

The Fall Term 1960 Dade County Grand Jury was impaneled by the Honorable Robert L. Floyd. Judge Floyd instructed us as follows:

"Every one of you is required to throw aside all malice, hatred, or ill will, to show no favor or affection, but to administer the law righteously and fearlessly, and with a single eye to truth and justice."

He cautioned the Jury: "Not to suffer bad and designing men to obtain indictments to gratify a malicious heart or to reap a petty vengeance."

Judge Floyd advised us that this charge was given more than one hundred years ago in Illinois by Judge David Davis.

With this traditional duty in mind, the Court reminded the Jury:

"You are not only a sword to the guilty, you are a shield to the innocent."

The Grand Jury has faithfully endeavored to perform this duty. We conclude our service to the Court and to the community by filing this, our Final Report. It is our hope that the matters recorded herein will be beneficial to the citizens of Dade County.

* * * * *

CAPITAL AND OTHER CRIMINAL CASES PRESENTED TO THE GRAND JURY

<u>Defendant</u>	<u>Charge</u>	<u>Disposition</u>
DALE O. LAWRENCE	First Degree Murder	True Bill
DONALD RAY MINTURN	Rape	True Bill
ANNETTE PAULINE DRAPPER	First Degree Murder	True Bill
JAMES OWEN ROBERTS	Lewd, Lascivious and Indecent Assault upon a Female Child Under Fourteen Years of Age without Intent to Commit Rape	True Bill
JAMES A. LALYER	Manslaughter	True Bill
ALAN JAMES PARKER	Rape	No True Bill
JESSE THOMAS DOWNS	First Degree Murder	No True Bill
HARRY LEE MUNDY, III	First Degree Murder	True Bill
HERSCHEL CLAYTON	Rape	No True Bill
COY LEE O'QUINN; JOSEPH ALBERT PARKER, also known as JOE PARKER; ROY JUDSON LANE, and PETER BENJAMIN TRAIN	First Degree Murder	True Bill
LELAND ROY BAUGUS; NICHOLAS JOSEPH SIKALIS, also known as JOSEPH PATRICK HAYES, and CAROL BERNICE DOBSON	First Degree Murder	True Bill
CEASER BROWN	Manslaughter	True Bill
WALLACE LEE, JR.	First Degree Murder	True Bill
JACOB D. McCRAY	Manslaughter	True Bill
RONALD LESTER PATTON, SR.	First Degree Murder	True Bill
JOHN CHARLES CROSS, alias DOCTOR HERBERT WATERS	First Degree Murder	True Bill
GEORGE JACKMAN; DONALD F. WATKIN; SARAH WATKIN; WILLIE PEARSON, and LONNIE SPRINGFIELD	Robbery	True Bill
WILLIAM TERRANCE McGANN	Rape	True Bill
MACK CHARLES WATSON, JR. also known as M. C. JUNIOR, and JIMMIE WILSON, also known as FIFTEEN	Second Degree Murder	True Bill
EDDIE JONES	First Degree Murder	True Bill
WILLIAM ADLER	Lewd, Lascivious and Indecent Assault upon a Female Child Under Fourteen Years of Age, without Intent to Commit Rape	True Bill

THE DADE COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT AND FLOOD CONTROL

The great amount of flooding in Dade County, resulting from Hurricane "Donna" and the easterly wave called "Florence" which swept over this section of the state last September, was investigated by the Spring Term 1960 Grand Jury.

The preceding Grand Jury recommended the following:

1. That the local maintenance force be expanded to include, if necessary, a ready reserve made up of public employees from other departments of government to combat flood conditions in this county when they may occur.
2. That the Central and South Florida Flood Control Program be expedited by our county officials so that a fair share of monies will be expended in Dade County.
3. That local public officials provide the necessary county funds to supplement the South Florida Flood Control Program.
4. That adequate drainage structures, approved by competent engineers, be provided under existing roads which now act as dams.
5. That local public officials remain alert to the flood control problem and never permit it to die out when we dry out. If necessary, that a Water Control Authority be created, either appointive or elective, which will keep this problem well before the public.

We continued this investigation which was begun by the prior Grand Jury. We heard testimony from witnesses whose property had been damaged by flood waters and salt water intrusion, engineers and administrative heads of the Public Works Department of Dade County, employees of the Water Control Division, and other interested persons.

The Grand Jury also made an inspection tour of the areas of the county most severely affected. We found a lack of administrative leadership within the Public Works Department of Dade County, specifically in the Water Control Division. For example, the Public Works Department was totally unprepared to cope with conditions resulting from the flood. The methods used to alleviate the flooding were inadequate and conducted on a hit and miss basis. Much of the work was poorly constructed. Where roads were cut to alleviate flooding, instead of constructing one large adequate culvert, three small culverts of different sizes

were set in the cut side by side. This resulted in inadequate drainage and difficulty in maintaining and keeping the culverts open. We witnessed the idleness of men and machinery while culvert cleaning equipment was cut down with acetylene torches to accomodate the various sized culverts. We also saw digging equipment standing idle because it was not suitable to do the necessary work. These and other examples of waste and inefficiency were prevalent.

This waste and inefficiency is also displayed in the long range planning program of the Public Works Department. Dade County has been subjected to law suits brought by citizens who were adversely affected by the digging of Cutler Drainage Canal Projects 1 and 2. The County's plans for this canal were not made known to the people whose property was affected thereby and their opinions and attitudes relating thereto were not sought or considered prior to the letting of the contract for construction of the canal. The Board of County Commissioners' efforts to placate the citizens adversely affected by the location of this canal cost the taxpayers of Dade County more than \$35,000. If the property owners affected had been consulted prior to the letting of the contract, this money could probably have been saved. The lack of proper planning is evidenced by the failure to locate the canal at the natural drain field, and by the failure to construct an adequate salt water intrusion dam. Funds are not now available to build an adequate salt water intrusion dam. However, a temporary dam has been constructed. This resulted in salt water seeping into the canal and causing a fresh water well of an adjacent property owner to go salty. The County was required to build a new fresh water well for this property owner and no record of the cost of this well was kept by the Public Works Department. The testimony showed that many men and pieces of equipment were used for a number of days to construct this well. This testimony convinces the Grand Jury that private enterprise could have drilled the same well at a fraction of the cost.

Last November, a railroad was permitted to construct an embankment through a drainage slough replacing an existing large open trestle. The railroad placed three

small culverts through the embankment which are wholly inadequate to carry off flood water according to the engineers of the Public Works Department. At this time, interested citizens in the area advised the Public Works Department of the construction of this embankment. However, it was not until the matter was brought to the attention of the Public Works Department by the Grand Jury the following March that the Public Works Department notified the railroad in writing that the culverts placed under the embankment were inadequate. A building permit was never obtained by the railroad company for the construction of this embankment. As of this date, no action has been taken by the Public Works Department to correct this hazard to the proper drainage of the affected area.

The Grand Jury was shocked to find the Public Works Department in the deplorable condition outlined herein. We feel that the County Commission cannot be relieved of some considerable responsibility in connection therewith. We trust that the inefficiency and waste existing in this department is not indicative of the condition of other county departments. If so, it would be readily apparent why taxes and costs are steadily rising. If Metro is to work, our County Commissioners must properly fulfill their obligations to the citizens of Dade County.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. We adopt the recommendations of the Spring Term 1960 Grand Jury and strongly urge that they be carried out.
2. We further recommend that the Board of County Commissioners look into and fully examine the entire operation of the Public Works Department, and direct the County Manager to take such action as needed to correct its faulty operation and improve its efficiency.
3. We further recommend that a system of cost accounting be adopted by the Public Works Department so that the Board of County Commissioners may determine whether or not private enterprise could perform some of its present duties at a savings to the taxpayers.

CITY OF HOMESTEAD INVESTIGATION

As a result of requests from the Mayor of Homestead and the Homestead-Redlands Chamber of Commerce this investigation was instituted.

Members of the City Council charged that the City Manager, in his capacity as Purchasing Agent, failed to obtain bids as required by the City Charter. The City Manager admitted such a course of conduct and based his action on custom and practice established in this regard, prior to his assuming the position of City Manager. Failure to subscribe to proper purchasing procedures resulted in a financial loss to the City. Certified Public Accountant's analysis showed that one firm overcharged the city between three and four thousand dollars during a thirty month period.

The City Manager was remiss in his duty in not properly complying with regulations. However, members of the City Council condoned these acts by their silence. In the performance of their duties as Councilmen they knew or should have known of these improper procedures. Their failure to take earlier remedial action indicates an acquiescence on their part and they share in the responsibility for the resultant loss to the City of Homestead.

The City Manager admitted receiving a gift of electrical appliances from a person who shortly before had been granted a business zoning variance by the City of Homestead. There was no charge that the City Manager exerted any influence in behalf of this person, nor does the evidence warrant such a conclusion. Nonetheless, the poor judgment shown by this act does not reflect credit upon the public office held by the City Manager.

A situation existed in the City of Homestead in which several members of the City Council obtained a sworn statement as to the possible commission of a criminal act by a member of the city government. At the time this knowledge was obtained, these councilmen failed to notify any law enforcement agency or the Grand Jury as to this alleged violation. Not until after this investigation was under way was this information divulged to a law enforcement agency. At that time, the chief witness was no longer in this country and therefor further investigation was stymied.

Public officials are under a solemn obligation to report any knowledge and information which may constitute a crime. This knowledge is not theirs to dispose of at their will or whim, but rightfully belongs to the agencies properly constituted for enforcement. The failure of a city official to so perform, violates a fundamental concept of his responsibility to the community.

The City Manager admits to having ordered the altering of a report to show receipt of a greater shipment of supplies than was actually received; although his explanation was adequate, it appears that the City Manager could have used a procedure less likely to cast suspicion.

There is a conflict in testimony in regard to the existence of an alleged oral bid, which the City Manager claims he received, and which the other party involved denies ever having made. Tighter administrative procedures on the part of the City Manager would remove him from such questionable situations.

There exists an inequity in valuation on unimproved, unplatted property in Homestead. This inequity is of prime benefit to a member of the City Council owning such property. Investigation shows that this inequity is uniform and has existed for many years. It does not represent an act of favoritism toward a City Councilman. The City of Homestead is awaiting a reassessment by the Metro Government which will be accepted by Homestead for city taxing purposes. There are existing procedures for citizens to protect their present valuation. Although an improper act does not appear to have been committed, an obvious and admitted inequity does exist. Where a member of the city government may profit by such inequity, then prudence would dictate that the inequity be reformed.

There is no evidence upon which to warrant criminal prosecution of any official of the City of Homestead. The Charter of the City of Homestead outlines the procedure for removal of the City Manager should that be the desire of the City Council. The Council and the City Manager are devoting considerable time and energy to debate and dispute the ability of the City Manager to properly administer the affairs of the City of Homestead. This type of approach to affairs of government does not appear to lend itself to the best interests of the City of Homestead.

HIALEAH POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Grand Jury conducted an investigation into the operation of the police department of the City of Hialeah following charges and counter-charges made by the officials of that city.

Our investigation indicates that morale in the police department of the City of Hialeah is extremely low. The following complaints have been repeatedly made:

1. New police officers are assigned their duties with inadequate training.
2. Discipline is not meted out on an equal basis.
3. The officers are subjected to undignified and unprofessional discipline.
4. Officers are also subject to disciplinary action prior to adequate investigation of minor complaints against them.

At the present time, probationary patrolmen receive a two week lecture training course prior to assuming full duties. This program is administered solely by the City of Hialeah and does not include training in the use of firearms. Adequate police training should require a more intensive program and the regular use of other facilities such as the Dade County Police Academy.

There appears no consistent standard upon which disciplinary actions are measured. Investigation reveals that an officer discharged his pistol within the police station, striking a milk vending machine. For this act, the officer was given a verbal reprimand. Another officer scorched the seat cover of his police vehicle with a portable spotlight. This officer was ordered to walk a beat for three months. These and other examples of unequitable discipline have had an adverse effect on the morale of the police officers.

The most often repeated charge was that the officers were subjected to abusive language while being disciplined for minor infractions. In order to attract qualified men, police work must be elevated to a professional status. Every good law enforcement agency is striving in this direction and the best example is the Federal Bureau of Investigation. We have no quarrel with strict discipline and in the development

of a competent police force such firmness may be a necessity. To achieve a professional goal there must be a professional relationship between senior officers and the patrolmen.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. We recommend that the probationary officers be given more adequate training now without waiting until the required training course at the Dade County Police Academy goes into effect.
2. We recommend that a program of supplemental training be given the permanent officers to assure a more professional attitude among the men.
3. We recommend that an expert in police administration be employed by the City of Hialeah to conduct an examination of their current procedures.
4. Solicitations by police officers for advertisements in a yearbook should be prohibited in this Department and, in fact, in all police departments in Dade County.

IRREGULARITIES IN THE STATE ROAD DEPARTMENT PROGRAM

Irregularities in Florida's road construction program revealed by the Legislative Interim Committee on Public Roads and Highways were of major concern to the Grand Jury.

The Committee recommended the creation of the position of State Highway Commissioner to be appointed by the Governor and State Cabinet. Senator Scott Kelly, Chairman of the Committee, believes that this would offer continuity of administration and would be effective in removing politics from the road building program.

A tightening of conflict of interest laws was proposed which would prohibit state road employees from personally profiting in connection with State Road Department projects.

It was further recommended that legislation be passed making it a crime to give unauthorized compensation to state employees. It is presently a crime for state employees to receive unauthorized compensation. This change in the law is sorely needed.

The creation of an independent testing division to determine that building specifications are being complied with was also proposed. Presently, each construction division tests its own work and according to Senator Kelly an independent division would insure full compliance with specifications.

The Committee's legislative proposals included additional plans for insuring a more efficient operation of our State Road Department.

The Grand Jury endorses the objectives of the Legislative Interim Committee. The future development of Florida and Dade County is in great part tied in with a sound road building program. Senator Scott Kelly and the members of his committee are to be commended for their investigative efforts and findings.

TURKEY MONEY RACKET, STRIP JOINTS AND INVESTIGATION OF OFFICERS
ON LIQUOR AND VICE SQUADS

The Grand Jury investigated the "turkey money racket" and the operation of various night clubs featuring strip-tease dancers and employing "B Girls", and filed an Interim Report.

Complaints made to the Grand Jury, together with injunction suits brought by the State Attorney to close these "clip joints", as a public nuisance under the laws of this State, resulted in our making this investigation.

We found that the "turkey money racket" was prevalent throughout the county. The City of Miami Beach has an ordinance prohibiting the "turkey money racket"; however, our investigation revealed to us the urgent need of a Metropolitan Ordinance prohibiting this activity, which is prevalent on a county-wide basis.

In our Interim Report we made several recommendations to remedy these conditions: That the Metropolitan Commission adopt an ordinance prohibiting the "turkey money racket"; that the State Beverage Department accelerate their efforts for continued supervision and investigation of "B Girl" activities in night clubs; that the various municipal police departments, especially the Miami Beach Police Department and the Metropolitan Public Safety Department, develop an adequate program for the purpose of combatting both the "turkey money racket" and "B Girl" operations, and that the Metropolitan Commission enact an ordinance requiring night club establishments catering to the general public to furnish adequate lighting within their premises.

The Metropolitan Commission thus far has failed to enact the ordinances recommended in our Interim Report. It is apparent that the other recommendations in the Interim Report have not been carried out, as the "turkey money racket" and "B Girls" are still flourishing.

All of these recommendations are vitally important and immediate action thereon should be taken by the appropriate official authorities.

In connection with allegations of "payoffs" made against a former detective in the Metropolitan Public Safety Department, sworn testimony was taken from some seventy-five witnesses. Fifty of these witnesses were operators of liquor establishments in this county. Virtually all of them were given immunity to encourage their cooperation and to prevent their seeking refuge behind the Fifth Amendment. However, corroboration of these serious allegations could not be obtained.

We are satisfied that the Public Safety Director does not condone improper activity by men in his Department and will take immediate action against any offenders. We feel that he must initiate more stringent screening and more frequent rotation of men who serve on vice and liquor squads.

It is a sad commentary that before and during this investigation not one operator of a liquor establishment came forward to complain of being "shaken down." We are satisfied that this has taken place. Until business men and the legitimate citizens of this community complain to the Grand Jury or a law enforcement agency when they are improperly approached by a police officer, these conditions will continue to exist. The public cannot escape its responsibility in this area.

INVESTIGATION OF CRANDON PARK ZOO

On March 29, 1961, the County Manager's Office and the County Commission requested that this Grand Jury investigate conditions at Crandon Park Zoo. We believe that the County Commission should have properly conducted this investigation. Although this request was received late in our term, considerable testimony has been taken. There are several areas that require further inquiry and we recommend that the succeeding Grand Jury and the State Attorney complete the investigation.

LAW ENFORCEMENT IN THE TOWN OF SWEETWATER

The Grand Jury made a thorough investigation relating to the adequacy of the Police Department of the Town of Sweetwater. This investigation revealed the total personnel of the Police Department to consist of a Chief of Police and one part-time policeman, the latter who works only on weekends. The duties of the Chief of Police require him to act as jailer, and at times he operates the Motor Vehicle Auto Inspection Station, and also performs various other duties. The equipment of the Police Department consists, mainly, of one automobile equipped with a police radio. The Chief of Police has no one to call on in cases of an emergency requiring additional police help. On several occasions the Chief has called upon the Public Safety Department of Metropolitan Dade County, who have cooperated to the best of their ability. We feel that the present Chief of Police is doing a commendable job with the facilities and personnel available.

The Town of Sweetwater is unable, financially, to employ a sufficient police force, pay adequate salaries and provide needed police equipment to do a competent job of policing the town. There is no training program for police officers. The cost of maintaining an adequate police department is too great a financial burden for most small municipalities. Sweetwater does not maintain anything resembling minimum standards for a police department.

In Dade County we have fourteen small municipalities each with a population of less than five thousand. The Town of Sweetwater has a population of 639, according to the 1960 federal census. The police departments in these small municipalities should be taken over by the Metropolitan Public Safety Department.

The services and functions of the police department of any municipality can be taken over by an election called by the Board of County Commissioners in which a majority of the electors of the municipality vote to do so, or by a two-thirds vote of the governing body of the municipality requesting the county to take over the service, or by a referendum.

The Metropolitan government of Dade County has authority, under the Home Rule Charter, to set reasonable minimum standards for all governmental units in the county for the performance of any service or function. If a governmental unit fails to comply with minimum standards and does not correct such failure, after reasonable notice, then the Metropolitan government may take over and perform, regulate, or grant franchises to operate any such service. These provisions are applicable to municipal police departments.

We recommend that the Metropolitan Board of County Commissioners adopt an ordinance fixing reasonable minimum standards for all police departments in municipalities having a population of less than five thousand. We also recommend that these small municipalities be encouraged to turn over the services and functions of their police departments to the Public Safety Department of Metropolitan Dade County.

TEEN-AGE CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL

The Grand Jury made a brief inquiry into the consumption of alcoholic beverages by teen-agers.

The Grand Jury recommends that persons selling alcoholic beverages demand draft registration cards or similar conclusive proof of age rather than driver licenses or other evidence which may be forged rather easily. Tighter vigilance must be maintained by all law enforcement agencies to control this activity.

We recommend that the succeeding Grand Jury thoroughly pursue this investigation.

TAXPAYER'S LAWSUITS AGAINST THE DADE EXPRESSWAY PROGRAM

More than one year ago the people of this county, in a virtually unprecedented move, voted approval of a bond issue for forty-six million dollars for expressways, bridges and streets. This bond issue was unusual, in addition, because it provided a special ad valorem tax to help liquidate it.

In spite of the overwhelming approval of the electorate, construction of the expressways has been delayed by harassing lawsuits.

We do not question the right of any private citizen or public official to bring a taxpayer's suit such as has been filed in this instance. We do seriously question that a city commissioner can properly and adequately represent his constituents, who are overwhelmingly on record as approving the bond issue, when he brings lawsuits to fight the program.

Further, we cannot agree that the plaintiff in these suits can divorce himself from his official capacity as a city commissioner, as he contended before this Grand Jury, in connection with the filing of these lawsuits.

These lawsuits, brought by a man elected to represent the people, are contrary to the view of the people as expressed at the polls.

PROPOSED FIREARMS AND OBSCENE LITERATURE LEGISLATION

The Grand Jury inquired into and investigated the adequacy of existing laws relating to the sale of firearms and the possession and distribution of obscene literature. The investigation disclosed that existing laws relating to both subjects were totally inadequate.

We carefully examined the proposed firearms law which was prepared by the office of State Attorney Richard E. Gerstein, and endorsed by the Florida Prosecuting Attorneys Association. This proposed firearms law will tend to correct the inadequacies of existing state laws and aid law enforcement officers in meeting the problems which face our community. It will not infringe on the basic rights of the citizens of this state to own and possess firearms as guaranteed by the Constitution.

We also carefully examined the proposed law relating to obscene literature, which was prepared by the Governor's Advisory Committee on Decent Literature and which was considered and recommended by the Florida Prosecuting Attorneys Association.

The Grand Jury filed an Interim Report in which we found that existing laws relating to both of the above subjects are insufficient to cope with the problems facing this community. In this Interim Report we recommended that the 1961 Session of the State Legislature enact both of these proposed laws and we again strongly urge and recommend their enactment.

CORRECTION OF UNETHICAL PRACTICES WITHIN PROFESSIONAL GROUPS

The Spring Term 1960 Grand Jury in its Final Report recommended to the Florida Bar that it establish an investigative office in Dade County to investigate complaints of ambulance chasing and other unethical activity. That Grand Jury also recommended that statutes governing the revocation or suspension of the right to practice medicine be enlarged so that they will encompass many improper activities not now included in the laws of the State of Florida.

It is unfortunate that neither the legal or medical profession have acted to implement these two recommendations.

As pointed out by our predecessors, the procedure within the Florida Bar for handling complaints is slow and cumbersome. Under the present set-up, attorneys must volunteer their time and services to work on Grievance Committees which investigate and hear complaints. An investigative office located in Dade County, where a large percentage of Florida lawyers practice, would relieve Grievance Committee members of this portion of their present work. We believe this would speed up the procedure and reduce the time between the complaint and a final adjudication of disbarment during which the unethical lawyer may continue to practice law.

A similar situation exists within the medical profession with the additional problem that when the local Board of Censors of the Medical Association acts, it simply prevents a doctor from being a member of that association. This does not prevent the doctor from continuing to practice medicine. As pointed out by our predecessors, the state statutes are inadequate to properly remove such an unethical doctor from the practice of medicine. We do not feel that the exclusion from the Dade County Medical Association is sufficient punitive action to take against unscrupulous doctors.

We again urge the honorable and ethical doctors and lawyers in our community and state to put their great weight behind the efforts to drive the charlatans from their noble professions.

JACKSON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

The operation of Jackson Memorial Hospital constitutes one of the major projects of our Metropolitan County Government. Prior Grand Juries have criticized the operation of the hospital for lack of sound business practices.

The Spring Term 1960 Grand Jury pointed out in their Final Report that the lack of cooperation between the Metro Internal Auditing Department and the Comptroller's Office at Jackson Memorial Hospital impeded efforts to improve business procedures and practices at the hospital. That Grand Jury recommended in its Final Report that the entire business administration of Jackson Memorial Hospital be turned over to the County Finance Department.

Cognizant of the importance of sound business operation at the hospital, we pursued this investigation. We can report that while this recommendation of the preceding Grand Jury was not carried out, the business administration of Jackson Memorial Hospital has been revamped. More accurate records are now being kept on charity cases, frequent surveys of these records are being made, new rules or criteria for the identification of patients have been adopted, a competitive bid system has been established for the purchase of hospital supplies and, by a change of administrative duties, it is now possible to cross-check all purchases made at the hospital. These procedures were recommended by the Spring Term 1960 Grand Jury in their Interim Report.

The testimony of witnesses who appeared before the Grand Jury reveals that a spirit of cooperation now exists between the administrative authorities of Jackson Memorial Hospital and the Metro Internal Auditing Department. With the existence of the improved spirit of cooperation and new business practices at the hospital, sound business procedures should result. Rules and criteria for the classification and identification of charity patients have been adopted, a competitive bid system for the purchase of supplies has been inaugurated, and more accurate inventory records are being kept.

This Jury wishes to commend William McLaughlin, Deputy Director, for his continuing efforts to bring proper business practices into operation at Jackson Memorial Hospital.

We recommend to succeeding Grand Juries that they continue to make surveys or inquiries into the operation of Jackson Memorial Hospital, particularly into personnel practices, to insure that the sound business procedures inaugurated are continued.

HUMANE SOCIETY OF GREATER MIAMI

Following the recommendations of the Spring Term 1960 Grand Jury, we continued an investigation of the Humane Society of Greater Miami to insure that the recommendations of our predecessors were carried out.

The preceding Grand Jury recommended that strict accounting procedures be adopted for control of animals in the Humane Society's charge, and that the Board of Directors of the Society re-examine the managerial set-up with a view toward adequate managerial control of the general operation of the Society. The Grand Jury has jurisdiction to examine the operation of the Humane Society as this organization receives funds from various governmental agencies.

From our investigation, we have determined that the recommendations of the preceding Grand Jury have been carried out. We find that the Board of Directors of the Humane Society have changed the managerial set-up and have instituted strict control of the general operation of the Society. Our investigation further revealed that the Board of Directors is maintaining a closer liaison with the management of the Society.

PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING AND JAIL

The Grand Jury made an inspection of the new Metropolitan Department of Public Safety Building and Jail. Construction was still in progress so it was difficult to make a complete appraisal of the new jail building. We can, however, report that the kitchen has the latest equipment for the preparation of food. While we were at the jail, we witnessed the preparation of a wholesome meal which would give the prisoners an adequate diet. We were impressed with the Chapel and the use being made of it by the prisoners.

In the Department of Public Safety Building, the Crime Laboratory has the most up to date crime detection devices. The Communications Division has the very latest equipment for receiving complaints and dispatching police vehicles to the scene of a crime. The officers of this division can, by a glance at a lighted chart, determine the activity of every radio controlled vehicle using this system in the county.

Both the laboratory and the communications system could be expanded at a nominal cost to accommodate all law enforcement needs in Dade County. It is our recommendation that all law enforcement agencies consolidate their criminal laboratories and communication systems into the Department of Public Safety crime laboratory and communication system. This could effect greater tax savings to those municipalities not now availing themselves of this service. This Grand Jury also recommends that the budget of the county government be increased to take care of this additional service to all municipalities. We are in sympathy with the desire of our County Commission to "hold the line" on any increase in taxes. However, we do not believe that you can hold the line on crime.

We recommend that the Dade County School Board in collaboration with the Department of Public Safety inaugurate a program to send senior high school students on a guided tour of the Department of Public Safety facilities and method of operation, as an educational program.

The Grand Jury wishes to commend Sheriff Thomas J. Kelly, Mr. Charles Zmuda, Director of Special Services, and each member of the Crime Laboratory and Communications Division for their efforts in creating these excellent divisions.

MISCELLANEOUS INVESTIGATIONS

The Grand Jury received numerous complaints relating to various matters which did not require full scale investigations and, therefore, are not included in this Final Report. Such matters are not included for the reason that no wrongdoing was found on the part of anyone, and the mere mention of names, or the problems involved, might tend to cast a cloud of suspicion over innocent persons.

The Grand Jury received the usual number of complaints from irresponsible persons who continue to plague each Grand Jury with their imagined grievances. Frequently, complaints come from responsible citizens who base their accusations on a misunderstanding of the facts or the law.

We also received a number of anonymous complaints but feel that any complaints presented to the Grand Jury should be signed by the complainant in order for it to receive serious consideration.

We mention this to inform the people of Dade County that all matters referred to the Grand Jury receive consideration and appropriate attention.

IN APPRECIATION TO THE COURT

We wish to express our sincere appreciation to the Honorable Robert L. Floyd, Circuit Judge assigned to this Term of the Grand Jury. When we were impaneled, Judge Floyd gave the Grand Jury an impressive charge in which he instructed us fully as to our duties and responsibilities. We found this able and distinguished Jurist to be considerate and courteous, always maintaining dignity and decorum in keeping with the highest tradition of the judiciary.

E. B. LEATHERMAN - CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

The Honorable E. B. Leatherman, Clerk of the Circuit Court, and his deputies have been cooperative and helpful to this Grand Jury, and we wish to express our appreciation to them.

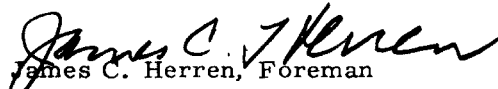
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT - BAILIFF

The Grand Jury's work was expedited and facilitated by the efforts of its Administrative Assistant, Eleanor M. Robinson, and its Bailiff, W. Rufus Holzbaur. Both are to be commended for their efficient manner and cooperative attitude in the performance of their duties.

RICHARD E. GERSTEIN - STATE ATTORNEY

All matters coming before the Grand Jury were capably and fairly presented by the State Attorney and his Assistants. Just as the preceding Grand Juries have done, we wish to commend Honorable Richard E. Gerstein, State Attorney, and the members of his staff for the invaluable advice and assistance given us and for their splendid cooperation with this Grand Jury during its term.

Respectfully submitted,


James C. Herren, Foreman
Bade County Grand Jury
Fall Term 1960

Attest: 
Helen D. Schlegel, Assistant Clerk

Date: May 9, 1961