

# Breakdown of reports by 1969 grand jury

## Sharp words for hospital

While most of the 1969 grand jury report couched the criticism it had for various county departments in polite terms, the section dealing with the financial administration of Santa Cruz General Hospital used no such mincing words.

The report made public Friday reiterated the 1968 grand jury's finding that a "deplorable condition" exists in the area of hospital finances. And, the committee which investigated this area this year added, it "is at a loss to understand why corrective recommendations contained in the 1968 grand jury report were apparently treated lightly."

The committee, consisting of Sam McNeely and Florence Lockwood of Santa Cruz and Mahlon Foote of Watsonville, places the "final responsibilities for corrective measures... squarely on the shoulders of the board of supervisors."

This despite the acknowledgement that it "appears that the faults in this department may lie directly with proper administration of the hospital."

This statement by the Committee on Audits and Finance, would lead one to believe that the hospital's present administrator, Dr. Louis Ruschin, is being held at fault for such situations as hospital billings several months and \$1.2 million in arrears.

But in another section of the report, the committee on health welfare and hospitals noted that Dr. Ruschin was only appointed administrator last February and "inherited a number of real problems unsolved by previous administrators."

There's another point of con-

fusion on who's being tagged with the blame:

The audit committee, in the report ostensibly new today, recommends the hiring of a "licensed accountant familiar with hospital accounting and procedures, capable of acting in the capacity of hospital controller."

Such a man was hired early last year in the person of John Allen and the hospital committee of the grand jury duly notes this. Thus the audit committee's recommendation would indicate either that it is not satisfied with Allen's work, or that it was unaware that he had been hired.

Whichever the case, here are some of the other fiscal administration difficulties at the hospital, as noted in the report of a private San Jose auditing firm, hired by the grand jury for \$8,500:

—The regular review of money owed the hospital to determine how much is chargeable to patients and how much to the county for services to indigents was more than four months behind as of last June 30.

—As of the same date, \$300,000 paid to the hospital had not been applied to the appropriate patient or service account, but was more or less hanging in limbo somewhere in the hospital treasury.

—As of October 15 1969, general accounting records had not been maintained at the hospital since June 30, 1968.

—Because of a weakness either in the design of the hospital billing system or in the system's implementation, what billings are coming out tend to be incomplete. It requires some four

to five weeks of hospital staff time to correct the computer prepared patient billings before they can be mailed.

(The auditing firm Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co., was not hired only to audit the hospital. The grand jury is required by law to audit all county departments, and the firm did so.)

The most important move to at least begin to remedy some of these problems, the auditing firm said, is to prepare patient statements "by any satisfactory means" so that the time between discharge from the hospital and mailing of the statement is reduced to 15 days at the most.

For more than a year now, the hospital has been involved in computerizing its accounting system. It is the bugs in the computer system that are apparently causing a good deal of the problems.

The auditing firm noted that an "objective" analysis of the current computer set-up will have to be made before the problems can be expected to smooth out.

Besides improvement of several other administrative procedures, the auditing firm also suggested that a "more realistic attempt at rate-setting" be undertaken, based on a determination of "true operating costs per patient day."

The grand jury's audit committee concludes its hospital report with this recommendation:

"Due to the seriousness of the hospital fiscal accounting problem, the matter (should) be considered by the 1970 grand jury audit committee as 'TOP PRIORITY.'"

The comments on roads and water conservation, quoted in full:

"Damage caused by the abnormally heavy rains of last winter was handled very efficiently. Roads were opened and kept open within hours of blockage by slides, debris, etc. The major damage was the Mt. Hermon Road slide. This was taken care of in a little longer time.

"Cost-wise, all damage was handled by an emergency storm fund set up by the board of supervisors. The committee's recommendation was to 'Fill in all island landscaping with blacktop and recapture future parking space, also stop continued

## A look at pollution problems

The chief offenders in the pollution of Monterey Bay are the sewage disposal plants of the Monterey County communities of Seaside, Fort Ord and Monterey.

"Santa Cruz County sewage disposal plants seem to be within tolerance at the present time."

This is how Santa Cruz County's 1969 grand jury, in its report released Friday saw the bay pollution problem.

The report went on:

"The problem is too large for local agencies. Consequently, state and local agencies should come up with a consolidated effort to control pollution immediately and at the same time to project ahead on new processes as money becomes available to keep current with the problem.

"Suggested temporary relief—lengthening of sewage disposal plant outlets into deeper water.

"Stream pollution in critical areas should require formation of sanitation districts or stop issuing building permits within these critical areas."

These comments on water pollution were contained in the grand jury report in the one page section devoted to "highways, roads, water conservation and water pollution."

The committee considering these subjects, consisting of Louis Pista and Shig Hirano of Watsonville and Burnace Hughes of La Selva Beach, complimented the operation of the public works department during the past year as being "one of a very efficient nature."

The comments on roads and water conservation, quoted in full:

"Damage caused by the abnormally heavy rains of last winter was handled very efficiently. Roads were opened and kept open within hours of blockage by slides, debris, etc. The major damage was the Mt. Hermon Road slide. This was taken care of in a little longer time.

"Cost-wise, all damage was handled by an emergency storm fund set up by the board of supervisors. The committee's recommendation was to 'Fill in all island landscaping with blacktop and recapture future parking space, also stop continued

## Some major renovations in county administration urged

In its report on the overall administration of Santa Cruz County, the 1969 grand jury adopted some of the major — and controversial — points made in 1968 by the Committee on County Government Organization.

For example, the grand jury heartily endorsed the idea of replacing the county's numerous special districts with several large "county service areas." The grand jury suggested, in fact, that the government organization committee "develop detailed plans" for such a changeover.

The grand jury backed up another committee suggestion with a recommendation that the "board of supervisors actively support changes in state legislation that would allow most now elective positions to be appointive."

The concept of making elective positions appointive has been the subject of some bitter debate before the supervisors. Those who favor the idea maintain it would assure qualified persons in the position and would give the supervisors greater control over departments currently headed by elected officials. Those who oppose it say the change would only be another move toward taking government out of the hands of the people.

Still another controversial suggestion embraced by the grand jury is that there be a study of a charter form of government for Santa Cruz County. The pros and cons of a charter government (as opposed

to the present "general law" form) have stirred many of the same arguments as those regarding elected versus appointed officials.

A charter form of government allows a county to organize along lines of its own choosing while organization under "general law" is according to statutes set down by the legislature. Any move toward a charter in Santa Cruz County would have to be approved in an election.

Among the other general recommendations on county administration in the grand jury report was one that a "central collections agency... be established for collection of all funds due the county and be under the supervision of the CAO (County Administrative Officer)."

This recommendation was not elaborated on, but it would seem to imply that the treasurer's office lose its autonomy and be made subordinate to the CAO. In its brief, and only, reference to the treasurer in another section of the report, the grand jury had this to say:

"The county treasurer should again be commended for his investment program of commingled funds. Interest earned... for the year ended June 30, 1969 amounted to \$896,182, which is \$163,782 more than in the preceding year."

Another "general recommendation" made by the grand jury was that the supervisors consider consolidating the county counsel's and district attorney's office, with the district attorney

becoming the county's head legal officer.

"The essential reason for this..." the report stated, "is that civil and criminal matters frequently overlap and there should be constant communication between the civil and criminal divisions in all matters involving the county."

While the district attorney would be the "sole department head of the Legal Division of the county," the report suggested, he would be assisted by a chief civil deputy and a chief criminal deputy.

If the supervisors aren't interested in following this recommendation, the grand jury said, then they should at least appoint a chief assistant county counsel.

The supervisors didn't know (or at least weren't supposed to know) about the grand jury's recommendations when they were choosing a new county counsel last December. But as

things turned out, they emphatically stated they weren't interested in recommendation number one, but actually carried out recommendation number two.

The grand jury also suggested that the level of pay in the county counsel's office be raised as an "incentive to attract better qualified legal personnel to this county and assure stability in that department."

The supervisors did raise the

level of pay for the new county counsel, and set the scale for the chief assistant appropriately high, but so far they have taken no action on the salaries of the rest of the county counsel's staff.

In its comments on other county administrative departments, the 1969 grand jury found certain problems with the county clerk's office, just as the 1968 grand jury had.

The general comments about the clerk's office include:

—"There is need for greater improvement in the training program.

—"There is particular need for improvement in both departmental and inter-departmental communications.

—"There should be immediate revision of all area maps and the revision of the process of ballot distribution.

—"The counting of ballots must be updated so that future errors will be prevented.

—"More study and supervision of the files of the county clerk is recommended to insure that these files are up to date and readily available to authorized personnel."

—"The grand jury also recommended that the clerk of the board of supervisors be removed from the county clerk's office and that the position be placed under the supervision of the CAO.

In the area of personnel administration, the grand jury suggested that the personnel director make "full use" of the graduates of the legal secretarial course now being offered at Cabrillo College.

In its comments on the planning department, the grand jury made one curious recommendation. The planning, public works and building departments should all be placed "physically adjacent" to one another for "more efficient planning service to the county." These three departments already appear to be placed as close to each other as is physically possible, with the

## Hippies called health problem

At least two of the problems the Santa Cruz County health department has to deal with have been made worse than they already are by hippies, the 1969 grand jury report released today stated.

Those were the findings of the grand jury's Committee on Health, Welfare and Hospitals, made up of Vincent Ridge of

The committee added a further comment about inland sewage pollution. Local areas, the report noted, are organizing sewer districts which could be helpful if they can be coordinated under a master plan. "Organization is needed," the report said.

Besides observing that the drug problem in Santa Cruz County is "serious... as it is throughout the

is progressing towards the solution of the problems."

—"The employees in the welfare department include many highly qualified for their responsibilities—"

—"Abuse of the rights and privileges of welfare is being controlled as closely as possible considering the subordination to state and federal dominance"

## Property policy criticized

One of the most critical committees of the 1969 grand jury was the one investigating the buildings and property owned by Santa Cruz County.

In the grand jury's report, made public Friday, this committee found the layout on the county hospital grounds to be a

It noted that the county is paying \$900 a month to rent space for parking across the street from the county building, and laid out another \$16,000 to surface this rented land for parking.

"Our investigation reveals the room for additional 160 to 185 parking spaces could be created

taken away valuable parking space which will surely be needed in the future."

The committee's recommendation was to "Fill in all island landscaping with blacktop and recapture future parking space, also stop continued



"hodgepodge of old structures," and concluded that the parking set-ups at both the county building in Santa Cruz and the courthouse annex in Freedom are all wrong.

"The most obvious condition impressing the committee" on the county hospital grounds "was the hodgepodge of old structures substandard beyond their years of economic usefulness and detracting from the new and useful structures."

Components of this "hodgepodge" which are no longer serving a purpose should be razed, the report said. One example cited was the old hospital kitchen, and another the old juvenile hall which, in such proximity to the new county hospital, is an "eyesore."

"Why build costly architecturally designed structures and at the same time be compelled to hold onto the old functionally inadequate structure?" the committee asked.

The committee, whose members were Pierce Fazel and David Brumfield of Aptos and David Bogaard of Santa Cruz, was especially critical of the parking arrangement at the governmental center in Santa Cruz.

on the present county property," the report said, thereby eliminating the need to rent space across the street.

How can these spaces be created? By placing 100 parking spaces where the current "South Lawn" is, next to the courthouse, and by reducing the wide planted and landscaped areas in the existing parking lot to produce 60 to 85 more spaces.

The money used for the rented parking lot across the street "cannot be viewed as prudent spending when the space is available on county owned property," the report said, especially when the rented lot averages less than 50 per cent occupancy.

Parking at the Freedom courthouse annex came in for this attack:

"The rear parking lot layout and landscaping were poorly engineered. The island landscaped areas of parking lot was a mistake, it creates a constant maintenance problem because of damage when autos roll through unprotected landscaped areas as no berm or curbing exists. Present condition of islands detracts rather than adds beauty because of the lack of maintenance and cheap design. This type of layout has in addition

maintenance cost." The committee was pleased that the board of supervisors created a division of real property, within the public works department, to be in charge of county owned buildings and land.

It lamented that no complete list or index of such property exists, and strongly implied that it should be the job of the new division of real property to compile such a list.

The committee did make a specific but enigmatic recommendation that the new division "look into all leases to non-county agencies occupying space in the old hospital buildings. Is the agreement of occupancy being met?"

The suggestion is enigmatic because it contains no further explanation, yet implies that possibly the agreement of occupancy is not being met.

Principal users of the old county hospital buildings are the Drug Abuse Preventive Center and the Community Action Board, which may or may not be considered a "non-county" agency.

land set up by the board of supervisors for just this type of an emergency.

"Water resources—Surveys of county water resources still show ample supply available to meet population growth.

"The county is being served by water districts, city systems and underground deep water wells. Steps are being taken to acquire sites throughout the county through purchase and lease plans."

This section of the report was summed up as follows:

"TIME AND MONEY are the essential factors in resolving the problems on hand. We feel that with a little patience this will be accomplished."

## Aromas rock fete to go elsewhere

There will be no spring "rock" festival in Aromas.

Promoters this week announced they are moving the event to another location, and are postponing it to a weekend in late May.

Expected to draw thousands of people to the festival site, partly in Monterey and partly in San Benito County, residents of Aromas had expressed alarm at the effect of the influx on their small community, closest to the site.

Felton and Stanley Perkins and David Bogaard of Santa Cruz.

The two problems are sanitation and venereal disease. The report put the influence of hippies on them this way:

"Sanitation has been a critical problem throughout the county due to failure of septic tanks causing pollution. This has been especially true in the San Lorenzo Valley where the problem was increased by 'Hippies' disregarding all laws and ethics."

"The V-D problem was accelerated by the influx of 'Hippies' and the budget for this item was expended by April."

## County jail 'overcrowded'

Discussion of the operation of the sheriff's department in the 1969 grand jury report released today revolves entirely around conditions in the county jail and the sheriff's office facilities.

The only discussion of law enforcement in the Law Enforcement Committee's report is contained in the comment, "It is apparent that cooperation with other law enforcement agencies throughout the county is on a high level."

Santa Cruz County's jail, the report noted, suffers from an "overcrowded situation" in both the men's and women's sections.

On the date it inspected the jail, the Law Enforcement Committee found that "every cell complex had several prisoners who were forced to sleep on the floor due to inadequate bunk space.

"While we agree that a jail should not have a country club atmosphere," the report said, "we feel that simple necessities must be provided such as proper sleeping arrangements and adequate cell occupancy. This type of overcrowding should be avoided except in emergency situations and then only for short periods of time. It seems that this is the type of situation that would eventually lead to severe problems with the prisoners."

The grand jury committee recommended that whenever there is even one too many female prisoners in the small female cell block, the extras

country," and that some county efforts are being made toward attacking it, the committee refrained from further discussion about the health department.

It did say of county health officer Dr. Richard Svihus that he "seems to be an extremely energetic man with good ideas."

The welfare department is disposed of in the report in a series of terse paragraphs. Some of these comments include:

"Study of the welfare activities in (the) county indicates that the director of welfare Mr. Ray Ansell, has a thorough understanding of the situation and

should be transferred to a jail in another county.

The board of supervisors adopted this policy last spring not only for female prisoners, but for male inmates as well.

The discussion of the jail continued by saying, "Even though the jail facilities are adequate, with the exception of apparent cell living area, it is ... recommended that some preliminary plans should be started in connection with eventual expansion of the existing facility."

The committee noted that construction of the jail honor farm on Harkins Slough Road is a "step in the right direction."

On office facilities, the report commented that the taking over by the sheriff's office of the entire courthouse annex building is a great improvement over the corner of the second floor of that building the office formerly occupied.

In contrast to the jail, the county's new juvenile hall on Graham Hill Road received nothing but praise from the grand jury.

The hall is a "modern facility of which the county can be proud," the report said, a place where "A wholesome, helpful atmosphere seems to exist over the complete facility."

The report contained a one-sentence comment on the district attorney:

"It is apparent that the

—"With the EOC (Community Action Board—anti-poverty agency) reporting to the board of supervisors there seems to be less conflict and/or duplication than previously."

—"While touring the welfare facilities it was evident that distribution of surplus foods at the center near the county hospital requires a car for the recipient to pick up and transport food received. Food stamps useable at markets would seem better for those in need."

The hospital section of this report is included in another story concerning the grand jury's findings on the hospital.

cooperation between the D.A.'s office and other law enforcement agencies, both state and local, is very good."

building and planning counters on the opposite sides of an aisle perhaps 20 feet wide.

The grand jury also recommended the supervisors "positively consider" the hiring of an assistant planning director "to help coordinate the work of this department."

No fault was found with the county administrator's office. The grand jury endorsed the current move to delegate more responsibility to the CAO, and said the move "should continue to completion as rapidly as possible."

Again, the board was one up on the grand jury, having passed an ordinance increasing the CAO's responsibilities just last week.

Members of the committee considering administration were Frank Trowbridge of Santa Cruz, Stanley Perkins of Santa Cruz, David Brumfield of Aptos and Betty Wyckoff of Corralitos.

## WHITE'S Memorial Chapel, INC.

Phone  
724-4751

609 MAIN STREET  
WATSONVILLE  
SERVING ALL FAITHS

DEDICATED TO FAITHFUL SERVICE

## Get the Answers



MEMBER,  
THE ORDER  
OF THE  
GOLDEN  
RULE

Your questions about funeral services and prices deserve answers . . . and will receive them at Watsonville's Memorial Chapel at any time, without obligation.



## DEER PARK TAVERN . . . 688-3201

The finest in steaks & chicken dinners . . . same ownership since 1933 . . . cocktails—banquet and party facilities—open every day, except Monday 4 p.m. to 2 a.m.

RIO del MAR JUNCTION APTOS  
Just off Watsonville Freeway at Rio del Mar Junction

FOR HOME FREEZER OWNERS

# FULL SIDE of BEEF

# 63

LB.  
300 lbs.  
to  
350 lbs.  
Average

USDA  
CHOICE

SUPER VALUE!  
HIND  
QUARTER lb. 69¢

SAL'S FAMOUS GOURMET PAK

Rib Roasts, Filet Mignons, Spencer Steaks, Top Sirloins, Porterhouse, T-Bones, Sirloin Tips, Ground Meat . . . lb. 89¢

Closed Sat. & Sun.  
Open Weekdays 8 to 5

EASY BANK TERMS  
For appointment or information dial 476-3300

Cut The Way You Want!  
Your order is processed, individually, allowing for the age and appetite of each family member. Every package contains the right amount, preventing waste.

# SAL'S EL DORADO MEAT CO.

1045 17th Avenue, Santa Cruz. Phone 476-3300  
Purveyors to home freezer owners, restaurants, institutions.