

Into ROK Lines

Lack Of Adequate Personnel In Juvenile Departments Stressed At Grand Jury Meet

Lack of adequate personnel in all offices handling juvenile delinquents, plus lack of space in other offices, coupled with the difficulty of getting cases into the juvenile court were both brought out this morning in the testimony before the grand jury relative to handling the situation.

Testimony was given this morning by James Cunningham, juvenile officer of the Watsonville police department, and Sgt. Charles Derby, juvenile officer of the Santa Cruz police department.

Others who were expected to testify at the invitational session were Max Caldwell, attendance officer of Santa Cruz city schools; Don Latta, Capitola chief of police; Robert Mondelle, juvenile officer from the sheriff's office and J. Ernie Balke, county probation officer.

All questioning was being done by Richard L. Hayden, secretary of the grand jury.

In his opening remarks, Lloyd Hebborn, foreman of the grand jury, said that body had been invited by a number of persons and organizations to investigate the juvenile situation in the county.

Hayden stated that it was the aim of the group to develop through questioning the extent of juvenile delinquency in the county and also the gravity or severity of the delinquency.

"We will then attempt to determine whether or not our present procedures of handling juvenile delinquency are adequate and then ultimately, after study, will determine what is to be done, and then make recommendations accordingly."

A subsequent meeting will be held to explore the results of this session, Hayden said. The recommendations will be the end result.

The entire proceedings was taken down with a shorthand machine operated by Robert H. Minor of San Jose. He was sworn in before the proceedings began, as was each witness.

Persons invited to the meeting included Mrs. Charles A. MacLean Jr., Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau, who had as her substitute Mrs. Lewis Nelson; Mrs. Norman A. Shockley, president of the Santa Cruz Women's club; Mrs. S. P. Selznick, president of the American Association of University Women; Mrs. Donald W. Gillies, president of the Council of Parent-Teachers association; Mrs. Laura K. Rice, president of the Council of Social Agencies, represented by George Harris.

Ernest W. Dillon, president of the Santa Cruz Council of Service clubs, did not appear; Mrs. Peggy B. Prince, president of the Santa Cruz City Teachers association, represented by Jack Snyder; Robert A. Clarke, president of the Santa Cruz County Teachers' association, who did not appear; Mrs. Harry D. Lyon, representing the American Legion, Mrs. Chester Johns, Mrs. Lee Meehan and Mrs. Alice Wilder. Myrtle Coleman, whose children

are receiving aid from the county, after the county took them away and placed them in protective custody, forced her way into the hearing after being restrained from entering the room by a deputy sheriff.

She was allowed admittance by John L. McCarthy, deputy district attorney.

District Attorney June D. Borina also attended the session.

The only unharmonious note during the morning's proceedings issued from Probation Officer Ernie Balke.

Derby was testifying to the difficulty he had in contacting Balke or anyone in his office.

"There's a fulltime secretary on duty at all times," Balke said from the audience. "I'm getting a little disgusted with the impression he's leaving."

Derby retorted that he'd like to subpoena the secretary in question and the one before her to determine the accuracy of the statement. There the matter dropped.

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