

Indictments Due In Vice Clean-Up

PHENIX CITY, Ala. (P)—An emergency grand jury returned 4,545 indictments Monday after three weeks of investigating vice and corruption in Phenix City.

PHENIX CITY, Ala. (P)—A dramatic new chapter in the tale of vice and corruption in fabulous Phenix City unfolded Monday with a grand jury report expected to contain more than 500 indictments.

Special Judge Walter B. Jones called Circuit Court into session to receive the first presentment three weeks after the 18-man blue ribbon jury began its investigation of widespread racketeering.

Picked teams of National Guardsmen stood ready to arrest the defendants named in the indictments, probably the greatest number ever returned by a grand jury in Alabama. Until the arrests are made, the names of those indicted must remain secret.

Multiple indictments against some of the gambling big shots were expected to account for many of the anticipated 500-odd true bills. As many as 50 indictments were believed likely against some.

Still others may come later in the continuing vice cleanup. Special Solicitor (Prosecutor) George C. Johnson said the jury would go right back to work as soon as the initial report was filed.

It was almost a foregone conclusion, however, that the first

interim report would contain no indictments for the murder of anti-vice crusader A. L. Patterson, whose death on June 10 started the unprecedented vice purge in Phenix City, where wide-open gambling and other rackets flourished for years.

State authorities directing the search for Patterson's killer haven't completed their case.

Grand jury testimony is protected by closely guarded secrecy, but the identity of many witnesses subpoenaed in the past three weeks indicated the nature of the investigation.

There were leaders in the crusading Russell (County) Betterment Assn., for example, who have charged repeatedly that racketeers controlled election machinery in Phenix City and infiltrated even into the Russell Betterment Assn. to further their interests.

Patterson, who had been nominated for attorney general of Alabama on a cleanup platform, was the RBA's attorney.

Other witnesses included state investigators, highway patrolmen and National Guardsmen who seized hundreds of slot machines, crooked dice, marked cards and lottery tickets in raids on gambling dens.

And there were witnesses who previously had told an investigating state Democratic executive subcommittee of numerous instances of fraud in the May 4 Democratic primary this year.

They said a "crooked" political ring controlled election procedure with a firm grip.



KITTEN ON THE COB— Sharon Bates, 13, is the cob holder as her kitten indulges an avid taste for sweet corn at the family's Minneapolis home. Pepper, the kitten, likes the kernels well buttered but no salt pul-eeze.

Bryan Takes Over West Point Post

WEST POINT, N.Y. (P)—Major Gen. Frederick A. Irving, commander of the famed 24th and 38th Infantry divisions in World War II, retires Monday as superintendent of the U.S. Military Academy.

Irving will be succeeded by Lt. Gen. Blackshear M. Bryan, a veteran Korean campaigner.

A 1917 academy graduate, Irving became superintendent in 1951.

President Pleased With Shivers' Win

DALLAS (P)—President Eisenhower is "highly pleased" at the re-election of Texas Gov. Allan Shivers, a conservative Democrat who supported Republican Eisenhower in the 1952 presidential election.

Democratic National Chairman Stephen Mitchell says he does not consider Shivers' victory an indication of any national trend or of "anything about Eisenhower."

RECORD TURNOUT

Shivers rode a record Texas primary vote Saturday to victory over Austin Atty. Ralph Yarborough, who was backed by liberal Texas Democrats.

It was a runoff election in which Shivers won an unprecedented—in Texas—third elective two-year term and Yarborough failed a second straight time to unseat him.

The latest tabulation of the Texas Election Bureau, an unofficial vote-counting agency, showed Shivers had a lead of 93,240 votes—771,569 for Shivers to 678,329 for Yarborough.

TIDELANDS ISSUE

Shivers said he staked his political life to helping swing normally Democratic Texas to Eisenhower in 1952. He said he did it because Adlai Stevenson, Democratic presidential candidate, would have vetoed a bill affirming Texas' ownership of oil-rich tidelands.

Yarborough charged Shivers betrayed the Democratic party by backing Eisenhower.

Eisenhower relayed to newsmen at his Denver vacation head-

quarters Sunday a statement that he is "highly pleased" by Shivers' victory. He made no mention of Shivers' 1952 support but said through Press Secretary James Haggerty, "The President has long admired Gov. Shivers as a public servant."

The 47-year-old Shivers, resting at his farm home near Woodville in East Texas, received a telephone call from Eisenhower Sunday but did not disclose what was said.

In Washington, Mitchell refused to read any national significance into Shivers' re-election. He commented on a TV-radio show that he doesn't think it "indicated anything about Eisenhower."

Mitchell said he doesn't consider the outcome an indication of any national trend but only "that the Republican party doesn't amount to anything in Texas."

GOP CANDIDATE

Shivers faces Republican candidate Tod R. Adams of Crockett in the November general election. But Democratic nomination for governor in Texas virtually means election.

With the victory, it was felt certain Shivers sewed up continued conservative control of state party machinery and would be in the saddle at the Sept. 14 State Democratic Convention. The convention will control Texas' delegation to the 1956 Democratic National Convention.

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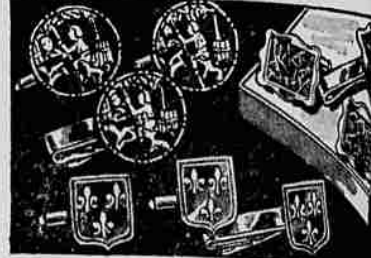
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