



Journal and Courier

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16 indicted by corruption probers

By JOHN NORBERG
and BILL OAKES

The special grand jury today indicted 16 people on 24 different counts relating to crimes back to August of 1975.

Special Prosecutor George Hanna said all the individuals indicted are believed to be in Tippecanoe County at this time except possibly for one.

The indictments were issued during a two-minute session this morning in Superior Court 1 before Judge Robert Munro.

Munro this morning was in his chambers studying the indictments prior to issuing arrest warrants to be served by the Tippecanoe County Sheriff's Department.

Hanna said there had been no attempt to watch those individuals who were indicted this morning.

Hanna said two areas of investigation have been completed by the grand jury, but that all the indictments today stem from one area.

There will be no police radio broadcasts about persons being wanted on warrants.

At 11 a.m. this morning the jury filed into the court of Judge Munro at which time he said, "I understand you have some indictments."

The foreman responded yes, and handed the judge a folder containing about one inch of papers.

"The court will issue warrants to arrest anyone who has been indicted by you," Munro said.

He instructed the jury not to release the names of anyone indicted at this time until after arrests had been made.

Munro then said he understood the jury had not yet completed its deliberations. The foreman said that was correct.

Munro excused the jury after it had been in the courtroom for only two minutes and the jurors returned to their fourth floor deliberation room where they were expected to hear testimony from Indiana State Police Lt. Oscar Gates.

It is the first time this grand jury has issued indictments. It is expected to do so three more times before the end of its session.

Earlier in the day, Det. Jerry Loy of the Lafayette Police Department testified before the jury for 45 minutes. There was one other witness besides Gates who was expected to testify today, but Hanna would not identify that person. Today will be the fourth time Gates has appeared before the jury.

Hanna said earlier that the jury is investigating four specific areas of crimes, believed to include gambling, prostitution and thefts by police officers.

The jury, in its third week of hearing testimony, is expected to continue meeting at least through next week and more indictments are anticipated.

Early in its deliberations the jury was reported to have heard testimony concerning a former Lafayette City official. That individual was not named.

However, it is known that charges of a criminal nature have been filed by the Indiana Supreme Court Disciplinary Commission against former Lafayette City Court Judge Lewis T. Wireman.

Some of those who testified during the early stages of the grand jury have been called to testify at the disciplinary commission hearing in West Lafayette. The hearing adjourned Friday and might not go back into session until Feb. 9.



Tippecanoe traffic toll far ahead of 1975's

A car rests on its top on Ind. 25, between Lafayette and Delphi, following a two-car collision Wednesday that resulted in Tippecanoe County's sixth and seventh traffic fatalities of 1976. Killed in this car were Mark Smith, 66, and his wife Jean, 67. Rt. 1, Delphi. Last year, Tippecanoe's first

traffic death was not recorded until Feb. 13 and the seventh did not occur until June 20. Story and additional photo on Page B-1. (Staff Photo by Dave Maroney)

Inside

Weathermen

Fair enters governor race