

February 29, 1988

Federal Judge Wayne Justice
P.O. Box 330
Tyler, Texas 75710

Dear Judge Justice,

We the members of the Bexar County Grand Jury, January-February 1988 term, wish to make the following statements of grave concern because we believe that OUR CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM IS IN SERIOUS TROUBLE.

Our findings are as follows:

1. Criminals in Bexar County no longer fear being punished for their crimes, which has resulted in Repeat Offenders becoming routine.

Example: Many times this Grand Jury has considered evidence against offenders who previously had been found guilty of a serious crime and sentenced to 5 to 10 years or more (within the last two years), and who should be still serving time in TDC - but rather they were "out" and committed more crimes against this community.

2. More often than not in cases where human lives and their safety are involved the amount set for Bail Bond purposes is too low. This Grand Jury took the initiative and recommended an increase in the amount of Bond set in several cases to correct this problem.

WE BELIEVE THAT THERE IS AN INCREASINGLY DISASTEROUS CONDITION PREVAILING, AND STEPS MUST BE TAKEN IMMEDIATELY BY ALL MEMBERS OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM TO CORRECT THESE PROBLEMS.

This Grand Jury therefore recommends the following:

1. That the Board of Pardon & Parole start to consider the well being of the people of Bexar County as well as people of Texas by requiring that Criminals serve essentially 100% of their sentences.
2. That Judges send a message to the criminal element by handing down stiff sentences consistently in all cases without regard to whether the case has made the headlines. We also believe the victim's rights should be considered in the process.

Page 2
February 29, 1988
Judge Wayne Justice

3. That the District Attorney and his staff more expeditiously prosecute vigorously all cases within their jurisdiction with little or no plea bargaining.
4. That Federal Judge Wayne Justice be realistic in his zeal to correct the so-called prison problem in Texas.

Please give this your immediate attention.

Sincerely,

JANUARY-FEBRUARY BEXAR COUNTY GRAND JURY

William B. Johnson

William B. Johnson
Grand Jury Foreman

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