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New Jeff Jury Plans Probe of Crime Charges

The newly impaneled Jefferson Parish Grand Jury will look into accusations by Life magazine that racketeering and organized crime flourish in Louisiana and Jefferson, according to Dist. Atty. Frank H. Langridge.

The DA said the probe will begin Monday.

Langridge went before the new grand jury with a copy of the Sept. 8 issue of Life magazine in his hand yesterday, shortly after the jury was sworn in by Judge Robert G. Hughes in Gretna.

HOWEVER, HE SAID he did not discuss the article with the grand jury but will do so Monday.

The story in the magazine said Carlos Marcello runs a Cosa Nostra empire from his stronghold in Jefferson and cited what it called failure by Langridge to prosecute members of organized crime.

In another grand jury matter, the outgoing jury filed indictments against four persons and returned two no-bills.

In its final report, the grand jury voiced the criticisms which have been hurled by previous juries concerning the Grand Isle jail, the parish prison and the two parish lockups.

THE GRAND ISLE jail should be immediately improved, the report said, and it recommended that the responsibility for the action be given to a governmental body.

It was recommended that parish prison be replaced by an entirely new facility "of a size and design modern and commensurate with the growth of the parish and its needs."

The jury suggested that the West Bank lockup be abolished upon completion of a new prison, and that immediate action be taken to institute a new East Bank lockup. He called the present facility "completely unfit for its designated use."

Robert J. Heim was foreman of the retiring grand jury.

THE FOREMAN OF the new grand jury is William H. Briede III, 1609 Francis ave., Metairie.

Other grand jury members are: Robert D. Baldy, 712 Fairlawn dr., Gretna; Raymond J. Hutsch, 332 Coolidge st., Jefferson; Andrew P. Levron, 125 Estess, Metairie; Ernest P. Ferrata, 123 Sierra ct., Metairie; Edward F. Daly, 860 Mystic Gretna; Frank J. Sehrt Jr., 1200 Kent ave., Metairie; Elmore E. Cruitt, 424 North Bengal rd., Metairie; Paul T. Hofhenke, 43 Hennessey ct., New Orleans 23; Orval H. Kalb, 850 Victory dr., Westwego; Raymond H. Ferran, 901 Ridgelake dr., Metairie, and Roy E. Bowers Jr., 1720 Manor Hgts. dr., Marrero.