

# 1000 'Big Names' in Secret Bank Probe

## Miami

Grand jury subpoenas will be returned on Tuesday in an investigation into an alleged conspiracy by 1000 or more prominent Americans suspected of hiding funds in foreign bank accounts to avoid income taxes.

Justice Department prosecutor Bernard Bailor estimated yesterday that the investigation, which involves banks chartered in the Bahamas, Panama, the Cayman Islands and the Netherlands Antilles, along with a branch of a Canadian bank at Nassau, will last at least 18 months.

Bailor said Internal Revenue Service intelligence gathering has turned up more than 1000 names, some of them in the entertainment industry and others "who run the gamut of American society. About the only thing they have in common is enough money to want to evade taxes," Bailor said.

The probe is expected to involve brokers, investors and corporations in New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Miami, Las Vegas, Des Moines, Iowa, and Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

Miami's Second National Bank, a bank in Perrine, Fla., Chicago's American National Bank, and New York City's Irving Trust and Chase Manhattan banks also are expected to figure in the investigation, Bailor said.

Information for the investigation was gathered by the Internal Revenue Service's operations "Trade Winds," "Decode" and "Project Haven."

"As far as I know at this time," Bailor said, "the investigation will include only information gathered by the IRS." But he said he was not ruling out eventual involvement of other federal agencies, such as the FBI or the Organized Crime Strike Force.

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"We are just starting along the investigative road at this time," Bailor said.

Some of the data collected has already been placed before grand juries in Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Florida. These hearings resulted in the indictment of a San Francisco lawyer, Harry Margolis, who is accused of funneling money for up to 200 clients to two Netherlands Antilles banks. A civil proceeding has been initiated against a now-defunct rock group, Creedence Clearwater Revival.

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