

Grand Jury To Begin Lottery Racket Probe

By CHRISTINE JONES

A special session of the Fulton county grand jury, which will see the beginning of an intensive investigation of the lottery racket, will be held tomorrow morning.

After Solicitor Gen. John A. Boykin appeared before the jury yesterday and presented plans for the investigation, the jury voted to hold special meetings on the lottery racket.

The grand jury is expected to hear testimony from witnesses in previous lottery cases and from citizens who have information concerning the racket.

A file containing the prison records, fingerprints and pictures of approximately 1,500 lawbreakers with previous lottery records in the Fulton county bureau of identification has been compiled in Boykin's office.

TO USE RECORDS

The records will be used by the lottery squads of the city and county police, the sheriff's office and the solicitor general's office in checking present lottery operators.

Most of the records, which have been filed for several years, show three or four lottery convictions as well as other crimes such as attempt to murder, violating the liquor control act and burglary.

"With this file, the lottery squads will be able to check up on former lottery writers and pick-up men and see if they are now legally employed," Boykin said. "The file contains the pictures and records of about 500 white men and women and 1,000 Negroes."

Solicitor Boykin pointed out that many known lottery workers are not arrested, if there are no lottery tickets in their possession or any other evidence of lottery which would be acceptable in court.

VAGRANCY LAWS

The state law on vagrancy would permit arrest and indictment of any person able to work, with no visible or known means of fair, honest and reputable livelihood," Boykin said.

"That certainly would include lottery men," he added. "If a man is found with plenty of money, but no proof that he is continuously employed in a legal occupation, he can be charged with vagrancy."

"The vagrancy law should be strongly enforced," Boykin continued, to prevent a tendency to crime by those who are idle."

Meanwhile Fulton County Policemen Roy Sawyer and J. D. Johnson arrested an alleged "bug" writer in Hapeville yesterday, following a foot race through a field in Plunkett town.

Benjamin Davis, Negro, ran when the officers questioned him about lottery tickets. Johnson chased Davis for approximately a quarter of a mile, vaulted over a five-foot wire fence, and finally caught him. A large quantity of lottery tickets were found in the Negro's pocket, the police reported.

WOMAN ARRESTED

The officers also arrested Rebecca Adams, Negro woman, of 423 Rock street, on a charge of selling untaxed liquor.

Sawyer and Johnson, while searching for lottery tickets, found a large amount of untaxed liquor hidden in a hole in the porch, which was covered by a rug and a chair.