

Citizens' rights cited

Grand jury subject of questions

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Take 23 ordinary citizens, give them extraordinary powers and call them a grand jury. Put them under the direction of a prosecutor determined to convict criminals, and shroud the whole operation in secrecy.

To Jill Raymond and others like her, that's the formula for an outrageous abuse of the innocent, an equation that allows the government to trample on the rights of its citizens.

But to Richard Thornburgh, a federal prosecutor, and others who think as he does, the grand jury system is a fair and effective way of breaking down the criminal conspiracies that conceal fraud, corruption, murder and all manner of Mafia evils.

Ms. Raymond, an activist in the women's movement, is among 50 people who have gone to jail since 1970 for refusing to answer a federal grand jury's question. Dozens of others have been threatened with jail for not wanting to answer. Their experiences have fueled a debate over reform of the grand jury system, and now Congress is giving serious consideration to the issue.

The reform movement involves only the 94 federal grand juries. There are state juries, too, but they operate under different regulations, some of them less stringent than the federal system. A few states, however, are experimenting with various ways to diminish the duties of local grand juries. Some, for example, allow certain criminal charges to be filed before magistrates, rather than being brought before grand juries.

Critics of the federal system point to the case of Ms. Raymond, in her early 20s, who never committed a crime, but was imprisoned in March, 1975, and stayed in jail for nearly 14 months. She had refused to testify before a grand jury investigating the whereabouts of two anti-Vietnam war activists Katherine Ann Power and Susan Saxe, both fugitives wanted on bank robbery charges. Ms. Saxe later was arrested.

And there's the case of Joanna Le Deaux, who was jailed in October, 1975, for eight months of her pregnancy after refusing to testify before a grand jury investigating the murder of two FBI agents on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. She was released only after giving birth to a son in prison.

There was no trial for these two women, no chance to tell their side of the story, no opportunity to allow an impartial jury to decide whether they should be jailed or should go free. They were simply brought before a judge who declared them in contempt of court and ordered them to prison.

Is this fair?
"Absolutely," replies Thornburgh, who is assistant attorney general in charge of the Justice Department's criminal division.

"There has to be some sanction for flouting a court order," he said in an interview. "If a judge makes an order, there has to be some sanction for violating it or the whole system falls apart. The courts have long held that they have a right to every man's evidence. That is firmly established in the law."

Thornburgh argues that various reform proposals pending before House and Senate Judiciary subcommittees would strip grand juries of their effectiveness. Atty. Gen. Edward H. Levi attacked all of the major proposals in testimony before a House subcommittee last June.

But the Coalition to End Grand Jury Abuse has marshaled the support of a score of civil rights and civil liberties organizations to push for procedural changes in the federal grand jury system.

In general, the reform bills introduced in both houses of Congress would give grand jury witnesses many of the rights already provided for defendants in criminal trials and would limit the government's power to compel grand jury testimony.

The grand jury system goes back to 1166 when England's King Henry II ordered periodic gatherings of a group of citizens from each village who swore to tell what they knew of crimes in the vicinity.

The institution survived through the centuries and crossed the Atlantic with the early settlers. When the Founding Fathers wrote the Bill of Rights, they required in the Fifth Amendment that "no person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous, crime except on presentation or indictment of a grand jury."

The same amendment provided that "no person... shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself."

As the federal system presently works, prosecutors must take all felony cases before a grand jury that reviews the evidence, questions

witnesses and decides whether or not to return an indictment. If the grand jury indicts, the case proceeds to trial. If there is no indictment, the case ends.

Witnesses called before the grand jury may refuse to testify on the ground that their answers might tend to incriminate them — the Fifth Amendment. But Congress, with the approval of the Supreme Court, developed a way to circumvent the Fifth Amendment.

Upon request from a prosecutor, a federal judge may grant a witness immunity from criminal charges for any testimony he might give the grand jury. The witness then is compelled to testify, whether he wants the immunity or not. If he continues to refuse, the court may find him in contempt and order him imprisoned for the life of the grand jury.

That's a maximum of 18 months. Grand jury critics argue that the system could force recalcitrant wit-

nesses behind bars for their entire lives. When they're released after the 18-month term of one grand jury, they could be summoned before a new grand jury and again jailed for 18 months for refusing to testify. The cycle could be repeated again and again.

In fact, that hasn't happened. Sam Pizzigati, spokesman for the Coalition to End Grand Jury Abuse, says that Ms. Raymond's 14-month imprisonment is the record.

Names in the news

Sarah Churchill sued in Chicago

Actress Sarah Churchill, daughter of Sir Winston Churchill, has been accused by a Chicago publishing firm of breach of contract by keeping a \$15,000 advance for an autobiography that remains unwritten.

The suit, filed yesterday in U.S. District Court in Chicago on behalf of Henry Regnery Co., said Miss Churchill was to have written the book with author Charles Hamblett, who died two

weeks after the contract was signed in March 1975.

Prince is married

Sweden's Prince Bertil, 64, married Mrs. Lillian Craig, 60, his Welsh sweetheart of 33 years, in a royal ceremony.

Bertil's father, the late King Gustav VI Adolf, had opposed the marriage after Bertil became next in line to the throne when his elder brother was killed in a plane crash.

He would have lost his royal title had he defied the king's wishes. The new king, 30-year-

old Carl XVI Gustav, Bertil's nephew, approved the marriage this year and was among the 20 wedding guests yesterday.

Snyder to leave

Tom Snyder, host of NBC TV's "Tomorrow Show," is leaving as co-anchor of the local affiliate's evening news show to do prime-time network documentaries, a network spokesman said.

Snyder will continue doing the "Tomorrow Show" from New York.



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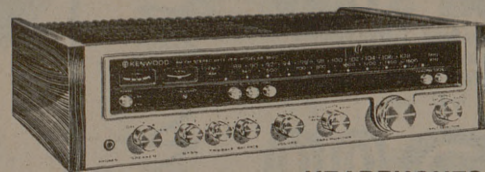
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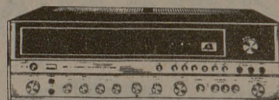
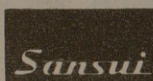
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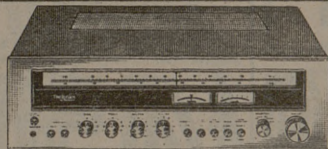
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331	12 watts per channel @ 1.0% THD	\$199.95...\$155.00
551	16 watts per channel @ 0.8% THD	\$259.95...\$179.00
5050	30 watts per channel @ 0.4% THD	\$319.95...\$255.00
6060	40 watts per channel @ 0.4% THD	\$419.95...\$318.00
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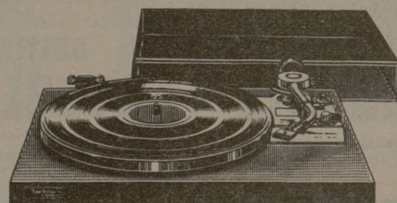
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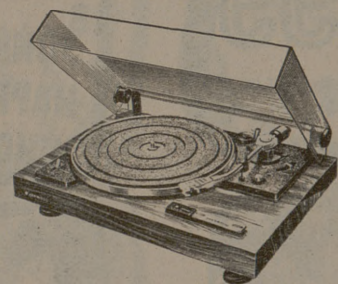
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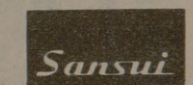


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KP-1022	\$134.90	\$99.00	(AT 10)
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	REG.	SALE	
1225	\$200.85	\$139.00	(AT 11E)
1226	\$230.85	\$164.00	(AT 11E)
1228	\$260.85	\$189.00	(AT 11E)
1249	\$340.85	\$259.00	(AT 11E)

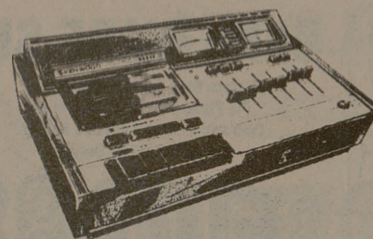


FR-1080 Semi-Automatic with AT 11E
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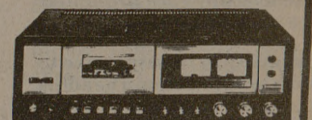


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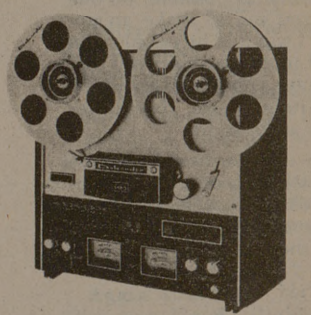


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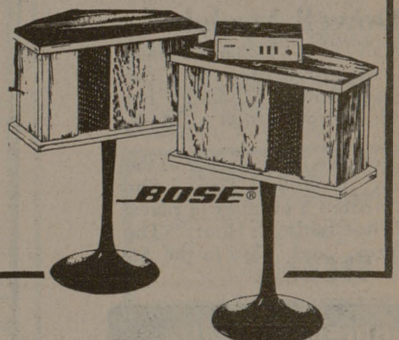


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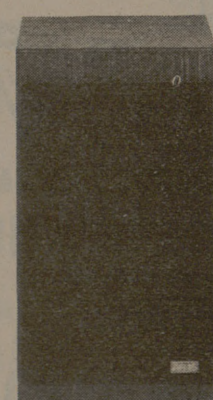


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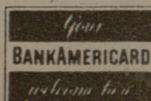
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