

M 968150

TO THE HONORABLE MACE-B. THURMAN, JR.

JUDGE OF THE 147TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT:

The Grand Jurors for the July Term, A.D. 1966, of the 147th Judicial District Court of Travis County, Texas, submit the following SPECIAL REPORT:

The Travis County Grand Jury is sickened and grieved by the tragedy occurring Monday noon when Charles J. Whitman, a University student from Florida, wounded 31 people and killed 15, including his wife and mother. These horrible actions were by a crazy, deranged individual who had suddenly gone completely berserk with no warning to his family or friends. Prior to this instance he had been considered a responsible, intelligent young man.

The autopsy report indicates that Charles J. Whitman had a brain tumor close to the brain stem which undoubtedly caused him much mental pain and possibly contributed to his insane actions. From notes left by Whitman it is obvious that he did not intend to be taken alive.

The shooting of Charles J. Whitman by officers of the Austin Police Department was not only justifiable homicide under the law, but was an absolute necessity in order to prevent further shooting of innocent people and to protect the lives of the officers attempting to make the arrest.

All members of the law enforcement agencies in Travis County and Austin, including Chief Hamilton and his University Security Police, worked together and are to be commended for their individual actions.

actions. A special commendation is due to Officer Billy Speed who gave his life in the line of duty, and to Officer Ramiro Martinez, Officer Houston McCoy, Officer Jerry Day, and Allen Crum (a private citizen deputized to assist the police) who teamed up to rush Whitman on the tower.

Too numerous to mention individually are the many, many University students, doctors, nurses and ambulance drivers who reacted heroically in this time of tragedy.

When a previously peaceful individual goes suddenly berserk this type of massacre could occur in any city in the world. It is the hope of the Grand Jury that a complete medical-legal case study of Charles J. Whitman will be undertaken to determine not only the cause of his sudden aberration but also to make recommendations which might prevent recurrence of such a terrible event.

We have instructed the police to release the notes left by Charles J. Whitman only to authorized investigating agencies since they contain unverified statements of an insane killer concerning an innocent individual which could be misunderstood if publicly released.

JOHN R. LAWRENCE

PAT E. HODGE, Foreman

WM. J. LAWSON

ALLEN C. CLARK

ROBERT I. LANGFORD

GEORGE R. HABERLIN

MRS. JOHN H. McNUTT

MRS. SAM KEY, JR.

WM. J. SHACKELFORD

ARTHUR DeWITTY

RUDY CISNEROS

PETE BOTILLO