

MIAMI, Feb. 20, 1960 - Governor Warren Saying he was acting as his own investigator of Dade Co. rackets indicated today he may fire Sheriff Jimmy Sullivan of Dade Co. after all and apologized to the crime commission of Greater Miami for not knowing what was happening here. The governor came here on a surprise visit to confer with officials of the commission for more than an hour. He got the low down on organized gambling which already was public knowledge. Warren said; however, he was surprised that such a situation existed. Later he asked Commission officials if the same situation had existed during other administrations. It had to some extent, they said, but that is no excuse for it existing now. At two points during the conversation which was slightly tense at times, Warren apologized for his failure. He is fully informed. He said he had been just too busy to know what had been going on in the state. Commission officials said they had been trying to get his attention for nearly two years, that they had written, they had telegraphed and they had telephoned repeatedly to Frank Wright, the Governor's assistant but nothing happened. Warren asked Commission officials if they would recommend a successor to Sheriff Sullivan "if I should ~~xxxxxxxxx~~ reach a decision that he should be suspended" and they refused flatly. He asked the commission ~~xxxxxxxxx~~ Director, Daniel Sullivan if he would accept the appointment and Sullivan refused flatly. They told the governor the naming of the sheriff was his responsibility, and they would accept no part of it. He came down here to put us on the spot and we are not going to be put, said one of the directors afterward. The crime commission recently asked Warren to remove sheriff Sullivan for permitting wide open gambling here and the infiltration of northern mobsters. Warren replied that the people had elected their sheriff twice and he was not going to overrule the voters. The governor did not deny charges that the sheriff failed to enforce the law. Commission officials told Warren today they considered that "a slap in the face". The governor said he didn't mean it as such and apologized. C. V. Griffin, former Warren supporter and the governor's chief investigator who had been fired last week had confirmed the commission's findings and asked President Truman to do something about this modern Babylon since Warren had refused to act. The Governor flew here this morning from Tallahassee with Royal Compton his press secretary and asked the crime commission for an appointment. It was made for three o'clock in the commission's small office in the Biacayne building and the governor sheperded by a state highway patrolman found himself jammed in among reporters, photographers, two court reporters, with stenotype machines, commission officials and observers including assistant state attorney general Jim Toney. The Governor looked taut and a bit worn as he entered the room and it was noticed that his hand shook as he poured himself a glass of water after the press photographers took a series of pictures. The governor opened the meeting by announcing that he always had been opposed to illegal gambling and still opposed it. He explained he had done all he could to obtain the passage of an anti-bookie bill which prohibits the use of racing information for gambling purposes outside of legal tracks and told sheriffs to suppress bookies, had given orders to beverage inspectors to seize slot machines when they were found operating in illegal places and declared publicly he would not allow slot machines to operate anywhere. He also recalled he had vetoed a bill to permit operation of one-ball pin machines which might have been an entering wedge for slots. Then he took up the defense of Sheriff Sullivan. He said statistics showed that there had been a decrease in many types of crime in Dade County under Sullivan. At another time he read a story from the St. Petersburg Times, a paper that has supported him in the past and which he called one of the many enlightened papers in the state, quoting Daniel Sullivan as saying gambling had decreased. Daniel Sullivan went on to explain that it was due to a municipal crack down by the city of Miami Beach on bookies and possibly the anti bookie law but certainly (over

was not due to sheriff Sullivan.