

JULY 5, 1950 Governor Warren today asked any citizen of Okaloosa County "who knows of any violation of the gambling laws" to testify at a hearing here Friday. The hearing announced earlier will be held to determine whether ~~xxxxx~~ Okaloosa, sheriff H. ~~xxx~~ Ensor and two constables "have neglected their duty to enforce the law against gambling." The governor's office also asked Jim Powers, staff artist for the Tribune who reported recently the Casino gambling had reopened at Ft. Walton to testify. Powers said he would comply with the Governor's request. Warren's inquiry into Okaloosa County gambling is one of two hearings he is scheduled shortly after the Tribune published stories of open gambling in Okaloosa and Columbia counties. The second will be held next Monday to determine whether Sheriff Ralph E. Witt and Constable Harry K Roberts of Columbia County have failed to enforce state laws against illegal gambling. Powers reported that on the night of June 20 dice, black jack and poker were being played openly at Ft. Walton establishments including the swank Shelmar Club on the Gulf coast, an elaborate night club situated about 4 miles north of Ft. Walton and the Magnolia Bar on Ft. Walton's main street. The same week the Tribune's staff writer J.A. Murray found slot machines in open play in the county of Columbia.