

JUDGE MOORE'S CHARGE TO THE GRAND JURY

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to be settled up here by the Court and the defendant will have an opportunity then to present his defense and all of his contentions about the matter, but when it is before you you only hear one side of the question that of the State's accusations and its witnesses, and in returning the bill, if you find you have three or four witnesses, or two or three witnesses on the bill, if you examine one and find the evidence shows probable cause that a man ought to be prosecuted, you will mark a cross mark at the end of his name to show what witness you have examined, and if one witness makes out probable cause, you need not call the other witnesses and take up the time of the court, just mark it a true bill, but in going over a bill, if the evidence of one witness does not show probable cause, if it takes two or three, then do not return a bill ignored or not a true bill until you have examined every witness marked on the bill by the solicitor. If in your investigation, you find there is a witness that should be marked and is not marked that is an important witness, you can report that fact to the Solicitor and he will mark him and have him brought as a witness before you, but do not mark any yourself, but report to the Solicitor and he will put his name upon the bill and have a subpoena issued and have him brought before you so that you can examine him.

You will find in your deliberations, I presume, in this County as most everywhere else, that some man will want to come before you and make presentment against some one, and will want to take you aside and talk to you or pass a note to your office not signed by any body wanting to prosecute his neighbors—Now, as a general thing, as a general rule, you can regard that man as a man who wants to persecute instead of prosecute, and he simply wants to express his spleen, or anger or ill will against his neighbor at the expense of the county, and if you want to mark him as a witness, he will throw up his hands in holy horror and say "I cannot and will not be made a witness, and you will see at once that he wants to persecute instead of prosecute his neighbor; he isn't trying to vindicate the law, he is only trying to get his own private feelings vindicated; but if a man wants another prosecuted by law, he can go to you and to the Solicitor and tell him this man ought to be prosecuted, if he is the right kind of a citizen, he will go and say he knows the facts and he is willing to be made a witness, and a man of that kind is wanting to vindicate the law and not wanting to vindicate his own private feelings, and he will say he knows a man has done so and so and he knows it and will say you can mark me as a witness if you want to. That man is upholding the law, and that is the kind of a citizen you want, one who has backbone to vindicate the law and stand up and swear the truth.

Now, gentlemen of the grand jury, the wholesale crimes in this state is getting pretty prevalent, and there must be something done to head it off and stop it or we are going to be in a pretty bad line. I find it everywhere, and I am sorry to say it exists among young, white men between the age of twenty-one and thirty who won't work and they have got to live and to have something to eat and something to wear and they are not willing to work for it—and what do they do? The next thing you hear of them breaking into stores and houses and stealing, and in these days of automobiles they will break into a man's chicken house and steal his chickens and before he knows it they are forty or fifty miles away. Since I have been on the Bench I have found that they will go into a town and through a neighborhood and drive through a neighborhood and find some man who is raising chickens, a man with fifty to a hundred fine hens for feeding purposes, and he will get the next morning and find every chicken he had gone and the men who have stolen them will be in some city far away and it will be late for him to catch them, and they go in hands sometimes, there

will be three or four of them collected together; they enter into a conspiracy among themselves to do these things, and they will go to some little country store, and when a man locks his store up at night with three or four hundred dollars worth of goods at some little cross-road, he will go back the next morning and all he has left is his shelves and counters, and they have a place where they store their stolen stuff and when they are caught or seized by an officer none of the goods would be found; there were fourteen different people in that crowd, just a pack of pilfering men going all over the country stealing and they will go and load up their automobiles with stolen goods and drive across to Tennessee or South Carolina and peddle them out, and maybe have a man over there doing the same thing and come back over here and sell it out. They are doing that all over the country, and what is the cause of it? To a great measure the swift mode of travel and transportation; in these days of automobiles they can commit these crimes and before they are discovered they will be a hundred miles away; that is one cause, and another cause is that since the war the boys refuse to work; they lay around home all day, or around drug stores and soft drink stands and filling stations, and smoke cig-

arettes, and, if they can, bum a drink off somebody, and go back home and eat up what the old man and old woman and little children have made during the day; instead of bringing in something to support the family they are imposing on them and they are strong able-bodied men; they are vagrants, they have no visible means of support, that is what the law calls vagrants—laying around drinking fountains and places of that kind and places of amusement doing nothing at all to earn a living, they are nothing but vagrants, and if you will just take charge of that and report them and bring them up here this Court will give them a job for at least thirty days, that is the most I can give them, but I will give them work for thirty days, and I'll give them a suit of clothes—it may not be according to their idea of dress in society, and it may not be a suit that they want, but I will give them one if you will work. Now think of it—To show you, right here in your own town, you can go down to any of these wholesale stores and supply houses and you can find great stacks of bales of hay brought in here from some other state, and you can find bacon and flour brought here from somewhere else to sell to you and you are not exchanging a thing on earth to get your money back, just making what you can eat out of your

natural resources and putting out your money to enrich some other state for some other state to enjoy. This county could raise as good hay as any other country raises; it is productive enough to raise enough corn, wheat and bacon and hay to supply every want there is in the county. Just think of it—think of it for a moment if you can keep in your county the amount of money that is sent out of your county to go out to another state and other places, you would have more money in your county than you have ever seen before, and everybody would have money and everybody would be able to pay their taxes and there wouldn't be a juror that would have to be excused because he did not have money to pay his taxes—you would have plenty of money everywhere in your county if you raised what you lived on at home, and for what you did not want you would have a market for and could sell it and have the money, and if you can do that, gentlemen, it would stop all this loitering that I have spoken of, and your county would be a prosperous county and prosperous people, but letting these things go on and depending on everybody else for your supplies and living, you are not going to be prosperous. The natural resources of timber will give out and you will have nothing to go to to get a few ties and a little lumber to sell to get the money to

get a bag of flour to carry home on your wagon or truck. You see it every day. Instead of going to town and bringing back a bale of hay and a bag of cotton seed meal to feed your cow on, if you would raise these things at home, you could take it in and sell it, and you would be carrying back home the money in your pocket. Now, gentlemen, you can relieve that situation if you will cultivate that spirit among the people of your county.

Larceny is going on, that is the taking and carrying away of the personal property of another with a felonious intent to convert such property to his own use without the consent of the owner—just plain stealing—and these automobiles carry it out of the county and get it away and you cannot catch them, and not only that, the automobiles have created another case of crimes that is prevalent—they are polluting society and young men take these automobiles and take young girls out riding away out in the wilds at night and with the automobiles and a little whiskey something happens, either somebody is killed or hurt or some young woman has lost her reputation that is all. Now, if you can get these men who are driving these taxis that know all these girls that are not just what they ought to be, and they go around and say to men

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