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**Verdict On Prison Overcrowding Upheld**

**From Tribune Reports**

JACKSONVILLE — A ruling by federal Judge Charles Scott that Florida's prison overcrowding violates the constitutional rights of inmates has been upheld after two years, again, will show some real progress and a good faith effort to solve the problem, the department does not fear the possibility of a crime.

The U.S. 8th Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans affirmed Jacksonville U.S. District Judge Scott's original order from May, 1975, so well as the first appeal ruling from the court.

THUS, FLORIDA could be faced with the possibility of being forced to release several thousand prisoners to relieve the overcrowded prisons or first alternate quarters for them.

The original appeal court ruling supported Scott's finding that the overcrowding was causing inmates rights guaranteed to them under the U.S. Constitution. And the court said the state would be required to comply with the order to reduce the prison population regardless of the cost to the state.

The appeal ruling had been reversed on a technicality and then sent to the U.S. Supreme Court for review. The highest court in the land found in favor of Judge Scott and overturned the appeal court ruling against him.

"What the appeal court did for us at the time," Judge Scott said, "was to act as a substitute for the Supreme Court in affirming my ruling and the first appeals court ruling to return jurisdiction of the case to us."

"WHEN IT (the original) comes from New Orleans this court will have jurisdiction to proceed further in this case. What this court considers is appropriate for the Supreme Court to do in my ruling and the first appeals court ruling to return jurisdiction of the case to us."

He noted the appeal order, which still stands, is effective July 1 and "that unless there is some kind of overcrowding conditions."

He said he could modify the order and extend the July 1 deadline "if I thought, under the circumstances, that a further increase in the deadline should be warranted."

He noted the state is undergoing a prison expansion program and that could be significant "but there is no way to tell what they (the Department of Corrections) will do in the future where the prison system is in capacity and the present population. What's going to have to be done to get the department to where things stand at the system as of July 1, but right now I just don't know what my order is going to contain."

**News Of Florida**

**PSC Leaves FPL Rate Hike Issue Dangling**

TALLAHASSEE (AP) — A two-member majority of the Public Service Commission voted yesterday to grant Florida Power & Light Co. a 10.5% rate increase. But the action then broke down in procedural wrangling, leaving the rate hike issue dangling.

Commissioner William Davis, the dissenting vote on the two-member panel, refused to sign a voting sheet. He charged the procedure followed by Commission Chairman Paula Hawkins in joining with Commissioner Bill May for the rate increase.

COMMISSIONERS have advised the commission that the law required all three commissioners to vote on a cost before action could become official, another source was cited.

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**Man Threatens To Blow Up Askew's Office**

TALLAHASSEE (AP) — An early morning caller from New York threatened to blow up Gov. Reubin Askew's office yesterday unless he was paid \$500,000, officials said.

Col. Edgar Brock, Florida Highway Patrol commander, said the call was received on the Tallahassee station of the police at about 2 a.m.

"He said the governor's office was going to be bombed if the man's call was not received immediately after the call was received and the bomb was found," Brock said.

Officials said the governor's office was searched immediately after the call was received and no bomb was found.

Paul Schatz, Askew's press secretary, said the caller initially said a bomb would go off at 8 a.m. if he didn't get the money by then. When the caller took the call and that wouldn't leave enough time to deliver the money, the caller changed the time of the threatened bombing to 8 p.m., Schatz said.

**Pettigrew Named To Reorganization Post**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Richard A. Pettigrew, a member of the Florida House from 1963 to 1972, made an unsuccessful race for the U.S. Senate in 1974.

Carter also announced the creation of an Executive Committee on Reorganization, with himself as chairman.

Pettigrew, a Miami Democrat, was an architect in Florida's executive branch reorganization in 1967. He was chairman of the state legislative's Government Organization and Efficiency Committee.

Pettigrew, a member of the Florida House from 1963 to 1972, made an unsuccessful race for the U.S. Senate in 1974.

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