

# Foolish Swing at Jury System

The accused is being condemned and punished even before the trial is over.

The accused is the state grand jury investigating the Sterling Hall bombing. The accusers are five Madison aldermen who want the City Council to go on record in favor of having citizens not cooperate with the jury.

The resolution coming before the council tonight calls the jury a "tool to eliminate dissent and criticism of national policies."

The ill-conceived effort to throw a wrench into the judicial process was first proposed by Ald. Susan Kay Phillips, Ninth Ward.

It seems that the latest parlor game of the radical forces in America is to discredit the judicial process in any way they can.

The state grand jury operates behind closed doors, as provided by law. The particular one at issue is looking into the Sterling Hall bombing on the University of Wisconsin campus. To date, only federal charges have been leveled involving four men who are being sought by authorities.

State charges may or may not evolve from the grand jury, but the eagerness of a few aldermen to condemn this legitimate legal process



before it is even completed is strange business.

How can anyone equate a valid legal jury process involving a tragic death and a multi-million dollar bombing with some sinister government plot to stifle dissent?

The accusations come without basis. The attempt to broadside the grand jury process appears only to serve the paranoia of those who flirt with radical causes.

Both federal and state authorities are cooperating in the grand jury. Normal legal processes are at work.

The City Council has no business passing the foolish resolution which will come before it tonight. For that matter, it should not be necessary to consider a resolution drafted to praise the grand jury.

It should go without saying that a City Council upholds the duly-constituted grand jury system and respects it as part of the legal process.

*W. W. Steadman*  
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