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No Time To Lie on the Bahama Beaches



SILVA, OULAHAN AND LAMBERT

One part of our journalistic franchise is investigative reporting. We have explored, among other subjects, the abuses of prescription writing by doctors who have a financial interest in drug companies, the machinations of Jimmy Hoffa and Bobby Baker, the tricks of income tax swindlers, graft in the State Liquor Authority of New York, the excesses of the congressional pork barrel. In the pursuit of exposing crime, we turn our attention in this issue to the Bahamas.

The story began here at home, five months ago. Associate Editor William Lambert, who won a Pulitzer prize for investigative reporting before he joined our staff (in 1957, with his colleague Wallace Turner, for an exposé of the Teamsters' union), had been hearing many snatches of information about financial hanky-panky in the islands. He went to Washington to talk about it with people he knew in the Justice Department, the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Internal Revenue Service, the Post Office Department. In every office he visited, someone knew something about the bubbling scandal of the Bahamas. The problem was to put it all together. Staff Writer Richard Oulahan, Washington Correspondent Mike Silva and Photographers Flip Schulke and Rowland Scherman were assigned to work with Lambert. From last September until last week, they sifted facts from files and archives, cross-checked their information, interviewed people in Washington, New York, Freeport and Nassau.

Each one of them went to the Bahamas but came back covered with dust instead of sunburn. They didn't have time to lie on the beaches. They did go to the gambling casinos—in the line of duty. Oulahan lost \$23 in the slot machines and Silva says "I discovered, to my dismay, how not to play blackjack and craps." Lambert won't gamble—even on the archaic and operator-eavesdropped Bahamian telephone system. Two British newspapermen whom he hired to help on the story were instructed to courier their reports to Miami by hand instead of telephoning them. One was later handed a ticket home to England by his boss, and the other, tipped off that the Bahamian police were waiting for him at his apartment, smuggled himself aboard a cruise ship and slipped away. Our three-man team and two photographers suffered little more than stony silence, evasive action and, most of all, forced feeding of Bahamian scenery by the over-diligent employes of the Ministry of Tourism.

George P. Hunt Managing Editor

THREE ASTRONAUTS

ROGER CHAFFEE .

ED WHITE .

• GUS GRISSOM

