

Inmates

FROM PAGE 1A

from their jail sentences between 2008 and 2014 without paying their bills. The county charges inmates for basic supplies, including soap, toothpaste and toothbrushes, as well as any medical or dental care they need while in the jail.

A report prepared recently for the county board showed overdue bills ranging from less than \$100 to more than \$9,000.

While Littlejohn was reported as the largest scofflaw at \$9,913, others were shown to owe nearly as much.

Raymond Hogan, convicted in 2013 of battery, left the jail owing \$8,514, while Patrick Searles, who was convicted that same year on drug charges, left behind a debt of \$7,864.

At the urging of the county sheriff's department, county board members in April agreed

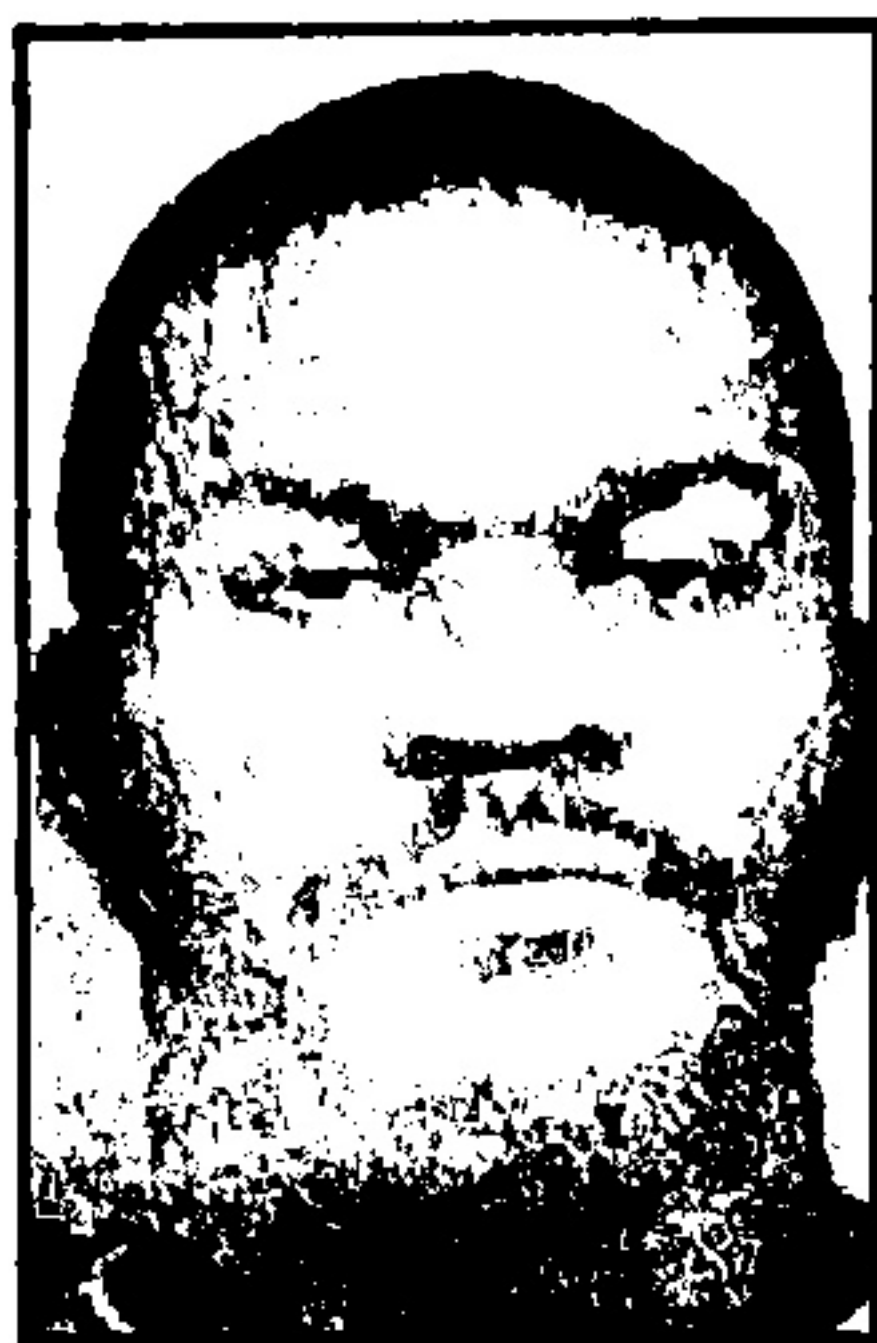
to write off as uncollectible the entire combined \$398,579 in past-due inmate bills.

County jail administrator John Delaney said he hopes to improve collections in the future, with Secord's assistance in the state collection program.

Delaney noted, however, that the county jail houses between 3,000 and 4,000 inmates annually, so having 400 unpaid bills over several years, he said, suggests that collections are generally pretty successful.

Charging inmates for such things as toothpaste and soap is intended to save county taxpayers money. Medical and dental services in the jail also can quickly run up a bill of several thousand dollars, Delaney said.

"I wish I could tell you that everybody who comes into the jail pays their bills," he said. "I don't think that's a realistic answer."



**Raymond
Hogan:**
\$8,514



**Patrick
Searles:**
\$7,864