

The machines iVotronics utilized in the disastrous primaries of September passed in Miami Dade, are the focus of an investigation of the Inspecting General of the county, Chris Mazzella, which expects conclude that those computers contributed to the chaos and that they should be rejected to guarantee future assemblies without problems. That recommendation, nevertheless, is not viable economically, for which probably Mazzella add alternatives to the same one. The administration already paid to ES&S, the responsible business by the machines, \$23,3 million the \$24,5 that stipulates the contract of sale. The last payment was done little after the general elections of November 4 without the knowledge of the Commissioners that since two months before asked repeatedly the lawyers of the county a legal analysis of the contract that it to permit to determine if could endure the disbursement of the money. That report never was delivered them, for which the political storm already has begun to roar. " It is horrendous, I am sick, the president of the Commission said, Barbara Carey Shuler. Someone has to yield us account. Specifically we ask that be to yielded ourselves a report and the administration paid attention omitted". The administrator, Steve Shiver, was found of trip last week for which could not be interviewed. But a lawyer of the County, Murray Greensburg, said that no agent " gave monitoring to the matter", and expressed to be felt frustrated before the investigation of Mazzella. " I know that the report is going to say that we should return the machines and to ask that they be returned us the millions that we pay for them, but that is very easy to say now", said Greensburg. Where was the Inspecting General when this contract was being negotiated completely to the public light? We why do not receive its opinion of expert in that moment?" Mazzella and its investigators began to stir among the referring documents to the purchase of the team to ends of September. The inspecting general indicated this week that his report would be ready for ends of March or principles of April, but he declined to comment on the progress of the investigation. In a previous interview, nevertheless, Mazzella did allusion to " deficiencies in the team that was used to vote" and to that the machines in question did the elections ççmás costly that never". Specifically, it knew The New Herald, the iVotronic have a processor 386, which was utilized in the personal computers of ends of the decade of the 80, and nowadays obsolete for that type of machines. Of the processor the velocity depends and the efficacy of execution of a program of computation, for which is questionable if one so old was the most indicated one for a so delicate system of voting. As a minimum aims at to be the reason why to put the program of the ballots in the machines delayed an average of 10 minutes and more than 20 minutes in which also they had a program of audio for the blind. This it was one of the factors that caused chaos in September. " The product that was shown us [ES&S] during the process of tender and the one that receive went not exactly equal. It had a different software and the ballot lit up different in the screen", said David Leahy, departing director of the Miami Dade Elections Department. According to the official, he saw how light up in the screen the program tri-lingual that asked the County only a great deal after the committee of selection itself there was overrated by ES&S. During the presentation the demonstration in two languages had be done only by him. But upon adding a third, said Leahy, ES&S changed also the program and how light up the ballot in screen. As aggravating thing, its department did not receive the final version of these changes to three weeks before the primaries. But according to Miguel O'Grandy, lawyer and cabildero that represented to ES&S during the process, none of the factors to the ones

that elude Leahy they were a surprise. " We present a system of two languages that had been certified by the state, and we proposed that the languages of the ballot were adjusted to the needs of the seal", counted O'Grandy. That is to say, that in places with a high percentage of hispanics, for example, the majority of the machines was planned in English and Spanish, and only some few in English and Creole. Ironically, that it would be able to be one of the recommendations of Mazzella, that upon seeming is convinced that the Machines cannot process three languages really. " The county did not want to do it thus and asked that all the machines were planned in three languages. They were completely to the so much that we would have to design another software that [at the same time] would have to submit to the state so that certified it. We, simply, we continue its instructions", added the lawyer. In a letter directed to Mazzella last week, O'Grandy stands out that it is ready to show that the iVotronic function when are used adequate. " The problems that had the county swims have to see with the machines. It was [the administration] the County the one that opted because not the technicians went of ES&S what they coached the workers of seals; was the County the one that delayed the process of selection and the negotiations. If as result the things did not go well, ES&S is not the guilty one. We continue the rules that they dictated", summarized O'Grandy