SATURDAY, JANUARY 29, 1949

#### STATE SAFETY LAWS ARE WORKING

TI IS only natural that the initial trial period of any new law should reveal certain ahortcomings and defects, both in the law itself and in the enforcement thereof. And it was to be expected in the case of such a radigal departure from past practices as the State's motor vehicle inspection and driver's licens re-examination laws.

Many motorists who have been inconvenienced or irritated by the laws have complained loudly, and there is considerable agitation for changing them or abolishing them altogether.

able agitation for changing them or abolishing them altogether.

Before the House is a measure which would cut the heart out of the driver examination law by eliminating the re-examination law by eliminating the re-examination every four years of each person who holds a driver's license.

Before the Benate is a bill which would read to be the properties of the same and the same that the same perfect, and the Senate measure, for example, would probably be agreeable to Motor Vehicle Commissioner L. C. Rossers. But the General Assembly will be acting wisely, and in the best interests of the State, if it secreties great caution in amending the laws so as to make certain they are not materially weakened. are not materially weakened.

Type due to the trace of the tr

In 1946, 1,028 persons were killed in N. C.

In 1946, 1/mm permass —
highway accided, a reduction of 19 per cent,
In 1947, first year under the new law, only
188 were killed, a reduction of 19 per cent,
In 1946, the number dropped to 724, a further reduction of 19 per cent, and a saving of
100 lives over 1847—for a total saving of 304
lives in two years.
This was accomplished in spite of the
5-cc than mooth vehicle registration in the

of almost 23 per cent in the number of vehicles, and a corresponding increase in travel.

Mr. Rosser also reported that the total decrease in traffic fatalities for the entire nation for the first eleven months of 1948 was 356. It is estimated that the figure for the full year will be about 300 below 1947—and about one-third of these lines need and about one-third of these lines need and the figure for the first per said of the first per said the transfer of the said of the first per said the said of the said o

OF course, the vehicle inspection and driver re-examination requirements are not solely responsible for this record. The 1947 General Assembly also passed a financial responsibility act, provided for a doubling of the State Highway Patrol, and tions. They have all added together to make the average driver a great deal more conactous of traffic safety which is the only long range answer to the problem. (A reduction in license revocation for drunk driving from 9059 in 1,947 to 8,453 in 1948 reflects this conactousness.)

Nonetheless, the vehicle inspection requirement has shown merit of its own:
In 1946, 196 fatal sactions were definitely trained to the conactous of the conactous safety of the conactous safety. The conactous safety is the conactous safety of the conactous safety is the conactous safety of the conactous safety.

In 1846, 194 fatal accidents were definitely attributable to one or more mechanical destributable to one or more mechanical defects.

In 1847, only 58 were caused by mechanical defects.

In 1848 were caused by defects.

In 1849 per cent were rejected on the first examination. Forty-four per cent of these had defective lighting, 22 per cent bad brakes, 14 per cent poor steering or wheel alignment, and 20 per cent miscellaneous defects.

IN VIEW of this evidence, the General Assembly could well afford to keep intacts the full framework of the law while improving the minor provisions of its administration so as to make it as convenient and painless as possible for drivers to com
But the Assembly aboutle constant's keep.

and painless as possions.

But the Assembly should constantly keep in mind the praise heaped on the State by the National Safety Council which described the N. O. program a "one of the most ambitious and progressive safety plans ever undertaken by any State."

that such training will be made available.

Just as the need for training judges is
obvious, so is it clear that children should
not be kept in jails. The psychological effect is disastrous; in jail a child feels hated
by society, by the juvenile court judge, by
the jailer—and in turry he hates. Moreover, food in most North Carolina jails is
not of the most nourthing sort, and drive

# HANDLING JUVENILE DELINQUENTS through institutes, conferences and courses offered in schools of social work and law schools, as well a through an "in-service training program. For the sake of the children of North Carolina it is to be hoped that such training will be made available.

WE FEEL, along with Dr. Wiley B. Sanders, author of "Juvenile Courts in North Carolina", that while there are some good things about North Carolina's juvenile court system, there are also some

had things.

His recommendations to do away with
these bad aspects, printed elsewhere on
this page, strike us as particularly valid.
The state will profit if its citizens heed
these recommendations.

(2) that children should not, under any recumstances, be confined in jail.

(3) that the whipping of delinquent chil-ren, by order or approval of the judge, not a telerated.

se tolerated. It does not speak well for the State that ich recommendations should need to be lade. We are not dealing with abstract rinciples of law, but with the rules of mple decency which should be known to

simple decency which should be known to all.

Dr. Sanders' figures show conclusively that the men sitting in judgment on the children of the state seldom are qualified to do so, that in most cases they are clerks of the Superior Court and were not elected as juvenile court judges. It is remarkable as juvenile court judges, it is remarkable applied to one of the most complicated problems imaginable — that of the child who has not learned to live according to the ruise of this society. Can there be any situation, where expert knowledge and insight is more meeded? Dr. Sanders says juvenile court judges a ould be trained

over, food in most North Carolina jails is not of the most nourishing sort. And otten only one or two meals are served per day, thus injuring the child's health as well as his morale. This problem of children in jail is not appressing now as it was when Dr. Sanders began his survey, but so long as there is no child in jail, there is a basis for protest.

for protest. Whipping of juvenile delinquents will, of course, solve nothing. It will, instead, make the child bitter, angry, resentful. The truth is clear; a child can commit no crime for which whipping is a suitable punishment. There is a State law against sentencing an offender to be whipped; it has been upheld by rulings from the attorney general; offer on numerous occasions. The law needs

The state can be grateful for Dr. Sand-ers' study. The facts concerning juvenile delinquency are now available. If the citi-zens of North Carolina will study them and then act to correct bad conditions they will have done a great service to the genera-tion that will replace them—and to their own.

### IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAW

THE execution of James R. Creech for the murder of his wife was in accord-ance with the law of capital punishment which requires a man to forfeit his life if he is found guilty of premeditated, willful purpose.

murder.

Governor Scott was entirely correct in refusing to intervene at the last moment as requested by petitioners representing the convicted man. The petitioners had based their pless on two points.

(1) That the Supreme Court was not

(1) That the Supreme Court was not unanimous in rejecting an appeal for a new trial, indicating that some of the Justices, at least, thought Oreech had not received a fair and legal hearing.
(2) That Oreech's mind was so inflamed by alcohol that he was insane and thus not responsible for his actions.
Threre was no question about the pre-

There was no question about the pre-meditation Creech went to the higms of a neighbor in which Mrs. Creech was stay-ing. He threatened persons who attempted to restrain him. He shot, not once, but twice — the first blast through the door of a room into which she had fled, the second while he was standing over her prostrate figure.

ermore, it was patently impossible Governor to decide the trial was if the Supreme Court was unable

to find enough errors to warrant a new trial.

Finally, the Governor would have been on dangerous ground indeed — as the Court would have been—if he had agreed with the petitioners that self-in duced drunkenness is legally equivalent to impanity. If this precedent should ever become imbedded in our law, every criminal would have an easy way out.

Up at Kansas City a couple decided to call off their divorce suit because it would be too much trouble to dress up seven small children and carry them to court, all being too small to leave at home. That seems to be a darned good reason.—Jackson (Miss.) Daily News.

All that prunient pittle in the London press about late hours being kept by Princess Margaret Rose to the result of the control of the contro

A nudist colony is dickering for a Flor key. Preferably one without a keyhole. Fort Myers (Fla.) News-Press.



People's Platform

### N. C. Parole System Described

explanation.

It is our feeling that a lot of the misunderstanding in regard to parole on the part of the public arises from an erroneous feeling that while the trial arises from an erroneous feeling that while the trial bits release on parole is without legal sanation; and that while the length of seminers is set by law, the the release of a prisoner represents an abus, of discounting of the part of the Governor and the Sarole Office. On the part of the Governor and the Sarole Office.

#### A Book Review

### **Young Delinquents**

disquences.

In an effort to give the public what it wants, writers have too often en guilty of exaggrating the available information about juvenil entipoleton, and the property of the prope

Juvenille delinquency is decreasing. Not growing. Power tide are being haled before the courts in North Carolins. Power tide are being haled before the courts in North Carolins. Power age entering training schools. Of course there is no radical cut-down in mischeavor by kids—just the same gradual decrease that has been going on for some time now.

#### Sanders Book Well Documented

NORTH CAROLINA is fortunate to have such a statistical survey,

Last week Dr. Wiley B. Sanders, a professor in social work at the

University of North Carolina, gave to the lawmakers and citizens of

this state a carefully documented, extremely valuable survey of "Juvenils

Courts in North Carolina".

court case on record from July 1, 1934 to June 20, 1944. When he finished he had file cards for 72,000 cases, and the he had file cards for 72,000 cases. The second of the he had file cards for 72,000 cases, and the head of the head file cards for 72,000 cases. The head of the head

#### There Are Bad Aspects, Too

There Are Bud Aspects, Too
DT "Javenis Courte in North Carolina" is not completely you.
There are some shocking and saddening revelations in this book.
Children in sists, for instance. Thrown into county sists, sity joedupe to mingle with actuit prisoners—drumts, thieves, prostitutes. In 1846,
go children under fourteen years of ase has been confined in sists for
were, doubtless, other occasions when children were saided, II is
were doubtless, other occasions when children were saided, II is
against the law to just in this committing a guide
infraction of the law in justing the child than the delinquent himself.
In many case during the past ten years, the oourt sword of disformations he simply condoned it upon sizgestion of the child's parments. Sometimes the children were whipped before the court.
The blook also reveals that few tuders of humants courts have
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#### **Editorial Paragraphs**

#### Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

## **Brannan Anticipates Big Grain Surplus**

PORTHRIOHT Secretary of Agriculture Charile Brannan warmed a closed-door Senate season this west that the Coverment may have to buy up 80,000,000 bushes of grain this coming year.

Reporting to a private session of the Senate Agriculture Committee, Brannan explained that farmers are overplaining rains and cotion, that prices may be also the corresponding to the contract of the farmers hands. The money to do this, Brannan cautioned, is limited.

Senator Thomas' Elevators

#### Brannan Says No

#### Citrus Fruit

FLORIDA's Senator Speasard Holland raised the question of price supports for tree crops—such as Florida's citrus fruits, tung oil and pecans. He cited a letter from Ralph

#### Bachelor Sam Rayburn

PRIENDS are kidding bachelor Speaker Sam Rayburr shout how he is going to spend his new \$15,000 salar.

Shout how he is going to spend his new \$15,000 salar.

Whenever 12 no to dinner with you Sam, 'chided de-lightful Mrs. A. Mitchell Palmer, 'you slways have the foot ent from Perev's Restaupant across the street to you one from Perev's Restaupant across the street to you can from Perev's Restaupant across the street to you the same with the same is wiped off; 'll's stone cold. With this new the penes account, if m expecting you to take me set to dimner.' Sam, however, is not expected to change much, He wouldn't be Sam Rayburn if he did.