

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1953

N. C.'S JAYPEE SYSTEM IS OBSOLETE

IN EDGECOMBE COUNTY 49 couples who thought they were married have found out they were not. In Craven County a cab driver was the gally thrown in jail for failure to pay promptly a \$12.40 grocery bill.

In county after county in North Carolina, day after day, similar serious legal errors are committed and justice is prostituted by incompetent officers of an obsolete system, the justice of the peace courts.

Jay Jenkins of the RALEIGH NEWS &

Jay Jenkins of the RALEMEN NEWS & ONSERVER RECENTLY WRITE An eye-opening series of articles on the system. Here, in part, is what he found:

Absolutely no training is required of a jaypee. Many of them have difficulty reading and writing.

"I ain't never been in a damn school house in my life" cept to an entertainment." one boasted to him.

They operate on the fee system, which invites fraud. A Craven County grand jury recently charged that jaypees there failed in "a very large number of traffic cases" to turn over to the county funds they had collected. Their books are seldom audited. Poor and ignorant defendants are often victimized.

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They exceed their legal jurisdiction. They have jurisdiction in civil actions up to \$200 on contracts, up to \$50 in torts (assault, minor suto accidents, for example), and in criminal cases when the prescribed punishment does not exceed a fine of \$50 or 30 days' imprisonment. In some counties they have jurisdiction in worthless check cases involving up to \$30. But some use their offices as debt-collecting agencies. Some use criminal indictiments to collect on open accounts. Some serve papers they are not authorized to serve, issue papers outside the county of their jurisdiction or even outside the state. ounty of them ide the state.

Despite their authority they are ex-

CHATHAM'S PROPOSAL

CIVIL DEFENSE Administrator Petersays Congress will be asked to iate 650 million dollars for civil O son says Congress will be asked to appropriate 650 million dollars for civil defense, about 14 times as much as it approved this year. He will probably receive about one-four-teenth of the amount requested. Congress has always slashed civil defense funds mercilessly. In 1951 the administration asked for 600 million dollars, received 75 million. In 1952 the administration asked for 600 million dollars, received less than one-four-teenth that amount. In his last budget message former President Truman requested 150 million dollars. The SAT Congress appropriated 469 million.

The majority of Congressmen have taken the position that even half a billion dollars annually will not insure adequate civil defense, but they're willing to vote for a token appropriation of a few gillion dollars. They will not be inclined to alter

empted from the classification of office-holder and thus can hold two public offices. They can use this dual position to personal profit.

when the value in the dual position to personal profit.

Why hasn't the system been reformed? Tries have been made, and stiffed quickly in the General Assembly. The Jaypees themselves constitute a good lobby, and there are plenty of them. Probably no one knows how many. That's because some knows how many. That's because some knows how many. That's because some knows how many. That's because the profit of the control of the

lature can name jaypees too.

Mr. Jenkins has focused attention on a part of the state judicial system that wants attention in every county. Many jaypees, to be sure, are competent and incorruptible. But the lack of standards and checks applied to the system, the undesirable fee system, the multiplicity of appointment and election procedures suggest that the best way to improve the system may be to abolish it alloogether, and replace it with a more efficient set-up.

There is of course a need for some court where minor litigation can be handled justly. We would suggest that members of the state bar put their minds to the problem. Perhaps their recommendaand more reporting of the situation in various counties can result in public awareness of the inadequacies of the present system, and corrective action by the next General Assembly.

WARRANTS SUPPORT

that position during an election year

In other words, communities that consider themselves particularly vulnerable to atomic attack had best get busy and provide their own civil defense. The federal government is not going to do it for

them.

The federal government can be of considerable help to the civil defense effort, however, by establishing a policy that will favor disbursement of defense industries. Disbursement legislation got bogged down in the last Congress. The issue was raised again last week by Rep. Thurmond Chathang of North Carolina who wrote President Eisenhower of the need for more disbursement. Mr. Chatham warrants the support of other Congressmen in his efforts to institute an effective method of civil defense which is possible of achievement.

We're tempted to invite the Tennessean back to dodge some of the hazard-happy natives for a while. Might change his opin-

ion. But it's good to hear his favorable comparison of the two states' highway safety.

safety.

He attributed the careful driving here
to the fact that state highway patrolmen
were much in evidence, patrolling, pecking
from roadsides, checking drivers' licenses.
He touched, we think, the most vital part
of Motor Vehicle Commissioner Schedit's
'new approach' to the traffic problem.
Nothing deters unlawfuness like the presence of a good cop. On with the "saturation" technique of patrolling.

ON WITH THE 'SATURATION' TECHNIQUE

WOW, they must really live dangerously over in Tennessee.

WOW, they must really live dangerously over in Tennessee.

A CHATAMOORA TIMES man came over to Durham for a football game. He was amazed by the leisurely lawfulness of North Carolina motorists. He says the motorist on the Knoxville-Chattanooga highway finds himself, particularly after a football game, 'in something like a mechanized version of a Roman chariot race'. But here in North Carolina he found traffic proceeding in a safe and orderly fashion, no "close" passing, and no passing at dangerous rates of speed. He was so impressed he suggested Tennessee safety officials come over here to find out about this state's safety program.

From The Wall Street Journal

THE SHADOW OF THE HAWK

MAN of peace died on an English cheek than to reject the chain moor the other day and the manner of passing served to shape a moral for all or peaceful men.

his passing served to shape a moral for all other peaceful men.

The Duke of Bedford was a man of many interest. He wrote of the social sciences, of credit property of mass particular to the social sciences, of the server of the social sciences, of the server of the s



People's Platform

Letters should be brief. The writer's name and address must be given, but may be withheld lication in the discretion of the Editors, The News reserves the right to condense.

U. S. Policy Re Israel Questioned ROCK HILL, S. C.

U. S. Policy Re Isroel Questioned

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Jeep's Pictures Were Tops CHARLOTTE

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Townsend Plan Is Being Revived By CONGRESSIONAL QUARTERLY

WASHINGTON
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ndes* for Congressional action on the proposals. Curisi (R.Neb.) shows the interest is social security proposals, The Townsend Flan still calls for a two per cent tax on all interest in social security proposals, Townsend officials asy. The Curisi CR.Neb. of the two per cent tax on all interest in social security proposals, Townsend officials asy. The Curisi CR.Neb. of the two per cent tax on all interest in social security proposals, Townsend group plans to start hearings among all unemployed persons over 60, videous and dependent children under 18, and the totally blind and disabled. The townsend group is overly out the control of the contro

Guerrillas Scarce In China; Chiang's Force Overestimated

By JOSEPH ALSOP

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Ike's News Confabs Longer, Rarer Than Truman's, FDR's

WASHINGTON

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The series averaging fewer than eight and fewer is averaging fewer than eight as President Truman, White House Press Secretary James C. Hagerty asyz Eisenhower's last twice a long through the series of the serie

Churchill Still Anxious To See Malenkov

Merry-Go-Round