

### More About The Courts

Time was and with the memory of many of us, when the courts of the land were respected with something akin to reverence. We even felt like tipping our hat to a lawyer, or saluting a court house with feelings akin to those when we saluted the flag. Judging by reports in newspapers, articles in magazines and in conversation with folks on the street, we come to the painful conclusion that such confidence and respect no longer obtains. The latest murmurings come from a recent decision to put juvenile delinquents in the same category with adult criminals, giving them the right to all the safeguards and help given to adult criminals. In one sense this is going to be tough on the youngster, as he will be branded as a criminal, and that will plague him the rest of his life. What happens here is the loss of a parental - court relationship in which common sense can guide both in dealing with youthful misbehavior.

On the other hand the youthful offender will enjoy the rights afforded

adults. He must be informed that police can no longer question him as once they did, and that he must have a lawyer to represent him, for which the state will pay. This end of the business, which is an effort to secure justice for the poorer classes, opens the way for more impositions upon the good people, and protection beyond the rule of common sense for the offender. It is easy to plead inability to pay a lawyer, so the good, law-abiding people, through taxes, will have to pay the lawyer, whose fees are set, as we read, at ten to fifteen dollars per hour.

To the average citizen this looks like an over-protecting arm of the law for the criminals, and further unjust impositions of burdens upon the innocent.

We are all for giving the youngsters and the adult criminal a fair break, but compassion is to feed and nurture repentance and resolve to better living, and not for pampering offenders.

NCD

### Traffic Safety Problem

Alcohol has been found to be a contributing factor in more than half of the fatal accidents, according to independent surveys.

The Alcohol connection was established through post-mortem studies of persons killed in accidents. The studies have been conducted in a number of states, and the results agree remarkably well.

A Travelers Insurance Companies spokesman said in an annual report on highway statistics, that each individual will have to make up his own mind about his personal drinking habits and driving a car. "Obviously," the spokesman added, "the driver enormously increases his chances of being in an accident—involving not only himself but others—when he drives after drinking. And the research on this subject shows clearly that he increases his risk with each

additional drink."

Last year more than 52,500 persons were killed in highway accidents, an 8 percent increase over 1965. Additionally, 4,400,000 persons were injured. Beyond the human suffering, the economic loss as a result of the traffic accident problem amounted to \$8.8 billion.

The Travelers report also showed that in 1966 more than 286,900 pedestrians became casualties—40 percent of the total deaths occurred on weekends—four out of five personal injury accidents occurred in clear weather on dry roads—and almost 32 percent of the drivers involved in fatal accidents were under 25 years of age.

"Every man, woman and child has a stake in the traffic safety problem. Each must do all in his or her power to eliminate the terrible carnage on our highways," the spokesman added.

### Religion In The Here And Now

By: Rev. Norvin C. Duncan

We have been thinking of Christian behaviour as it is related to the HERE AND NOW.

This has been spelled out in much detail in the Sermon on the Mount as recorded by Saint Matthew in Chapters 5-6-7. In chapter 7 verses 7-8, Jesus has something to say about the prayer life of one who seeks to follow Him. What He is really saying is that prayer must become a constant habit of the Christian. He says: ask, seek, knock—and ye shall receive. He is really saying that this is what life is like. It is the law of right living. The baby asks—by crying, by the appeal of its eyes, by the movement of his little hands. This

asking is a law of life because WE HAVE NEEDS, and only God can supply those needs; and prayer establishes such a relationship between ourselves and God that He can work through us to supply our needs. "The earth is the Lord's and all that therein is." If a farmer thinks that he can get on without God, let him try to make a crop without rain.

This ascending scale of ask, seek, knock indicates the constancy of prayer, even when it seems to fail. We must have faith that "He that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that he is a rewarder of them that trust and obey Him". Each step in the asking, seeking, knocking is a bit more difficulty, because our askings are often, seemingly, not answered. That is where we have to persevere in prayer. Often, as Jesus told His hearers, God, like a loving father, answers by not giving particular things asked, since they would not be for our good, but by giving something far greater than we ask for. God's no, is often His yes to our prayers.

A lot of people look upon prayer as an easy way of getting things. They look upon God as a sort of Santa Claus who hands out just what we ask for. Then, when they do not get specific requests, they quit praying—they stop short of seeking and knocking. He never promised to give us what would be had for us, but what will be good for us. He does not always deliver from pain, sorrow, disappointment, but HE does promise to keep us THROUGH them. "My grace is sufficient for you." This constant prayer life establishes an understanding and cooperative relationship between God and man, so that God is enabled to supply ALL of man's needs.

### This Week's 60 SECOND SERMON

By  
Fred Dodge

TEXT: "Order is the sister of foresight." — Ernest Dimmet.

A woman entered her daughter's home, said, "Hello" to the parakeet, and received a wolf whistle in reply. Pleased at the tribute she told her daughter what happened. Her five-year-old grandson looked at his grandmother thoughtfully and offered the best explanation he could.

"That bird," he confided, "is confused."

....

We all are more confused than we realize. Ernest Dimmet in "The Art of Thinking" wrote that when we say "I forgot" or "I didn't think," we admit we are confused.

Confusion is a subtle tyrant. It often masks itself with tidiness that sweeps dirt under the rug, stuffs letters and memoranda into desk drawers, an pigeon-holes, starts two tasks before we finish one and, generally, stride purposefully in circles that get no where. If anyone suggests that we place things in order, we say we haven't time and such routine would restrict our freedom. Actually, the converse is true. Order is the sister of foresight and together they bestow freedom, independence and security.

We can end confusion by a little self discipline. We can think more clearly, act more decisively, live more freely and effectively, if we will order ourselves to be orderly. Try it.



WASHINGTON — In a 6-3 ruling on February 17, 1964, the Supreme Court handed down the one-man, one-vote doctrine setting Court standards for the apportioning of Congressional districts.

Prior to that landmark decision, the Court had steadfastly refused to take jurisdiction of apportionment cases affecting Congressional district boundaries. Congress itself, although it has the constitutional power to legislate in this field, has also up to now refrained from setting standards for Congressional districts except for several brief periods many years ago.

This session Congressional interest in the problem has focused the House to pass the Congressional District Standards Act (HR 2508), and the Senate Judiciary Committee last week ordered reported its version of the measure.

What the bill seeks to do is to bring legislative standards into a much confused area of court defined doctrine. Twenty-two states are uncertain whether or not they comply with the Court's one-man, one-vote doctrine with respect to Congressional districting. Six state legislatures, including North Carolina's are presently under Court order to redistrict or face a Court redistricting.

The bill reported by the Senate Committee contains both temporary and permanent standards. Section one would govern elections beginning in 1972 and thereafter. Section two would apply to the elections of 1968 and 1970.

The permanent provisions which take effect in 1972 would establish a 10-percent maximum deviation between the population of the largest and the smallest Congressional districts of any state. It also provides that there shall be no elections for Representatives-at-large whereby candidates must seek election by State-wide balloting rather than by District-wide balloting. Moreover, the measure provides that Congressional districts shall be "composed of contiguous territory", that is, composed of counties that touch each other.

The temporary provision contained in Section two of the bill has caused more drafting difficulty. Under the Senate amendment, it would permit a maximum 25-percent deviation in population between the largest and smallest districts in any state for Representatives for the 1968 and 1970 elections. Its prime purpose is to remove the uncertainty which plagues a half of the Members of the House while the State Legislatures and the Courts seek to implement the one-man, one-vote doctrine.

I have worked on this legislation in Committee a great deal. It is offered as a measure hammered out by compromise and not as a perfect bill. Frankly, it contains temporary provisions that I would have written differently if I thought that they would have been acceptable to the majority of both Houses of Congress. However, it represents the best measure obtainable to clarify the issues in this troublesome area of the law. For this reason, I expect to press for its passage.

### SOCIAL SECURITY NEWS

\$302,302,000 in social security benefits were paid to residents of North Carolina last year, up 11.4 percent from the year before.

At the end of 1966, 2,275 men, women, and children in Davie County were receiving benefits at a monthly rate of \$132,781. Robert C. Thomas, social security district manager in Salisbury, reported today, 1,708 were older people, he said, receiving benefits as retired workers, the wives and husbands of retired workers and as the surviving widows or aged dependent parents of workers who have died.

"But social security is not just for older people," Mr. Thomas pointed out 271 young widows and children in the Davie County area were receiving benefits amounting to \$14,047 at the end of December. 242 disabled workers and dependents were receiving benefits at a monthly rate of \$15,150.

"Practically every young family has survivors protection under social security that can be worth \$75,000 or more, and equally valuable disability insurance protection."

The average worker, he said, can expect to collect more than the value of his social security tax contributions just in the benefits payable to him and his wife in retirement. If he does not live to retirement, his family stands to collect far more than the contributions he has paid; and the same will be true if he should become totally disabled for work before 65.

Monthly payments to the family of a worker who dies, leaving 2 or more children, can range from \$66 to \$368 a month, depending on the worker's average earnings under social security.

Social security survivors benefits, Mr. Thomas said, can be paid to the family of a young man who has worked and paid social security contributions for as little as a year and a half during the three years before his death.

Benefits to the mother and children continue until the youngest child reaches 18, or indefinitely, if the child has a disability which began before his 18th birthday and makes it impossible for him to work and become self-supporting. Under a change in the law enacted in '65, a child's benefits can be continued up until age 22 if he or she continues in school.

Under the schedule of taxes in the present social security

law even the group of young workers who will start work in 1974, after the maximum tax rates for old age, survivors, and disability insurance go into effect, will pay only about 80 to 85 percent of the value of their potential benefits. The matching contributions paid by their employers will account for the other 15 to 20 percent.

Over a working lifetime of 45 years, ending with his retirement at 65 in the year 2019, a young worker who earned the top amount covered by social security in every year would contribute a total of \$10,816 toward his retirement protection. Adding interest, compounded at 3 3/4 percent, the value of the workers contributions at age 65 would be \$26,412. The value of the benefits payable to him and his wife in retirement, assuming average life expectancy, would be \$32,883, 20 percent more than the value of his total social security contributions.

"These calculations," Mr. Thomas said, "are based on an assumption that the law will not be changed at all during the young worker's lifetime. It can be expected that there will continue to be changes in the law to improve benefits — as there have in the past."

"As pointed out in testimony before the Ways and Means Committee of the House of

Representatives in hearings on changes in the law now being considered, the financing of the social security system allows for increases in the benefit level as earnings rise in the future without any change in the contributions rates."

**ON DRAFT CONVICTIONS**  
The FBI has reported its investigations led to 450 convictions of persons accused of violating military draft laws in 1966. This almost doubled the 262 convictions in 1965. The increase in 1966 was due

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