

# Senator Sam Ervin Says

WASHINGTON—Much of our attention in recent days has been focused on events occurring on the moon, and on the problems of inflation and taxes here on earth. Even so, crime and how to control it is still very much with us.

Nationally, crime rose by 17 per cent in 1968, and increased again by 10 per cent in the first three months of 1969. Here in the District of Columbia, the seriousness of crime can be best understood by citing the statistics that were introduced in the from 1965 through 1968, Senate.

Robberies increased by 300 per cent, and in the first three months of 1969, they increased another 36 per cent. Only a few days ago, Senator Harrison Williams was robbed of \$38 as he stepped from his automobile here in the District of Columbia.

Shortly after he became President, Mr. Nixon urged the adoption of a 12-

point program to combat crime and improve the administration of justice in our nation's capital. Its principal features included the reorganization of the courts of the District of Columbia, the expansion of the indigent defender system so that trials would not be delayed, the addition of one thousand police to the Metropolitan Police Department, and increased citizen efforts to control crime.

On July 11, three bills to implement this message were introduced in the Senate.

The first of these measures deals with the reorganization of the District of Columbia court structure whose functions have been impaired by a backlog of cases that often delay criminal trials for as much as 24 months. Under the terms of the court reorganization act, the dual system of Courts of General Session and Federal District Courts, which try criminal cases, would be improved.

Federal courts in the District of Columbia, under the measure, would have only jurisdiction to try crimes which have been generally designated as federal cases throughout the nation. All local criminal jurisdiction would be vested in new Superior Courts which would replace the present Court of General Sessions. These Superior Courts would try cases analogous to those presently being tried by our state courts. Such a measure would expedite criminal trials here by eliminating much of the dual responsibility that has impaired the administration of justice in our nation's capital.

A second measure would convert the Legal Aid Agency of the District of Columbia into a public defender service. Currently, under the decisions of the Supreme Court, such as the Miranda case, the Legal Aid Society here has been swamped by the demands for representation in criminal cases by indigents. The Public Defender Act for the District of Columbia seeks to provide adequate representation by experienced, efficient and dedicated criminal bar attorneys in behalf of indigents. This would in itself eliminate a major cause of delay in criminal trials.

I fully endorse the above measures. However, I have serious reservations about the third bill in the President's D. C. crime package which seeks to amend the Bail Reform Act of 1966, which I introduced. I do not agree that the Bail Act should be amended to provide for "preventive detention." I think that such a concept is inconsistent with a free society. In my judgment, the accused should be given a speedy and impartial trial. This would eliminate much of the concern about giving bail to suspects considered dangerous. Preventive detention repudiates centuries of Anglo-American traditions of fairness, due process, and justice.

If the first two measures are adopted by the Congress, and I am hopeful that it will take that approach, I believe we can increase the effectiveness of the police and make justice swifter and more certain in our nation's capital.

# Make Church - Going A Habit . . .

## GOD'S COVENANT AND LAW

International Sunday School Lesson for Aug. 3

Memory Selection: "Moses said unto the people, Fear not: for God is come to prove you, and that his fear may be before your faces, that ye sin not."—Exodus 20:20.

Lesson Text: Exodus 19-24.

Today we study the ever-old, yet ever-fresh, story of the Exodus. God delivered Israel from the oppression of the Egyptians, having promised them He would lead them to a "land flowing with milk and honey." In return, they were to forsake evil ways and idolatry, and be true to Him, acknowledging Him openly as the one true God.

God did not minimize the dangers of their flight from Egypt, but He nevertheless entered into a covenant with the Israelites; in return for their fealty, He would deliver them from their enemies, provide sustenance for their bodies, and food for their souls. And at Sinai God renewed His covenant with Israel, and gave to them the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1-17) and other laws and regulations by which their lives were to be guided.

The central truth of our Christian principles is that we must fulfill God's purpose in our lives, and this we should gladly do in return for His help and guidance. His will, and His eternal laws are certainly worthy of our respect and consideration.

In the verses under study today, we see the tremendous favors God had undertaken in behalf of a chosen nation; we see, also, what was expected of them in return. The same holds true for us in our own day and time. Many things have changed in the world since Christ knew it, but basic Christian principles and obligations remain unchanged.

God did not deliver the children of Israel from Egypt as a random display of mercy; rather, it was an act motivated by a purpose—as has always been His wont. He had a mission for the Israelites to accomplish in the world.

For, just as God made His presence known to the Israelites when He handed down to them His covenant and the Ten Commandments through His intermediary, Moses, so has He revealed to us, His children, His awesome majesty through the person of Jesus Christ. He has demonstrated to us, not through the majesty of the elements—the thunder and lightning—but in the gentle person of the Savior, His everlasting concern for our welfare.

God still calls upon His followers to be a holy people; no longer bound by the confines of one nation; His representatives are widespread throughout the world—wherever there is even one believer. For to be a true believer automatically "charges" one with ministry in His name—that His Word might be made known to the unsaved. For missionary work in His name is not confined to teaching His ways abroad; one can be as effective a witness at home, in daily life, as those who pull up stakes and

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# VITAL BRIDGE

Living on an island has its problems! Islands are just fine . . . until you run out of bread or need the refrigerator fixed. That's why we built this rustic bridge last summer. It's safer for the children than our old boat, and it links us with our neighbors if we or they need help in a hurry.

There is great need for another bridge these days . . . not of wood or stone, but of understanding between the world's people. "No man is an island . . ." We are all children of God, made in His image.

The Christian Church is the living bridge that seeks to unite men everywhere in the fellowship of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace. By supporting your church and striving to live by its teachings, you help to span the gulf of ignorance and fear that still separates us from our brothers.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Acts 25:1-12	Acts 27:1-20	Acts 27:21-38	Acts 27:39	Acts 28:11-22	Acts 28:23-31	Acts 1:16-21

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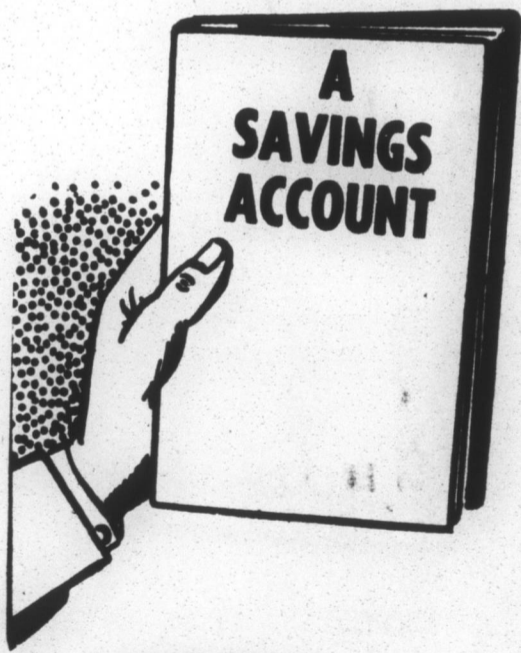
TO COOPERATE fully with ministers, priests in making the service occasions in which the religious significance can have fullest meaning and in which the spirit of God can be felt most strongly.

TO SEEK for real meaning in our work, so that our profession may never become routine and our attitude professional.

TO PROVIDE a place where troubled souls will find compassion; where confused minds will meet with understanding; where the bereaved heart will find sympathy; and the lonely will find friendship.

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