

### State Senator Reports on Law For Juveniles

For two days last week the Senate Interim Committee on Judiciary heard a thorough and searching discussion of the problems of handling juveniles who run afoul of the law, reported State Senator Richard Richards this week.

The occasion was the report of the Governor's Special Study Commission on Juvenile Justice, based on three years of study and analysis of juvenile court procedures. Recommendations for 31 changes in our present laws applying to youth and children were presented to the Committee, which also heard testimony for and against the proposals from law enforcement officers and members of the bench.

#### LEGAL RIGHTS

A major suggestion was that the court should inform a juvenile and his parents that they have a right to counsel, and that free legal service should be provided if they are unable to hire a lawyer.

Also recommended was an extension to juvenile cases of the 48-hour rule, which requires the release of a prisoner within two days if no complaint has been filed against him.

A third suggestion was that juvenile judges should be brought together in a study session so that uniform procedures could be agreed upon.

#### OFFICERS OBJECT

Primary objections came from law enforcement officers who contended that the recommended changes in present law would destroy the informal nature of juvenile court proceedings.

Other witnesses went so far as to maintain that juveniles as young as 16 years of age should be prosecuted as adults, particularly those with previous records as offenders.

#### GUARDIANSHIPS

A view supported by a present judge with considerable experience in juvenile court work was that juvenile cases are not actually criminal prosecutions, but actions in the nature of guardianship proceedings.

His view was that their purpose is to determine first whether a juvenile has done things of a criminal nature and, if so, whether the parents can supply the necessary discipline and guidance to avoid repetition or whether the court should be substituted for the authority of the parents. For this reason he felt that present procedures are adequate and even preferable.

Other members of the bench fully supported the Study Commission's recommendations, but the degree of controversy which they aroused came as something of a surprise.

How many of these suggestions will be drawn up into specific legislation will have to be decided upon after a careful consideration of all the testimony.

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Cool until mixture thickens slightly. Beat 1 egg white stiff and gradually beat in an additional 1/4 cup sugar. Whip 1/2 cup chilled evaporated milk in chilled bowl until light and fluffy. Fold egg white into gelatin mixture, then whipped milk.

Blend in a drop or two of almond extract, and fold in 1 1/2 cups drained canned cling peach slices (save a few to garnish top of pie, if you wish). Turn gelatin mixture into graham cracker crust and chill until firm. Top pie with peach slices and roasted almond slivers if desired. Makes 1 9-inch pie.

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