
The State Junior Chamber of Commerce has done excellent work in the prevention of juvenile delinquency. Now it has drawn up a plan intended to assist such delinquents in our courts.

It is not the intention of the State of South Carolina to handle juvenile delinquents in the same way as adult criminals. However, in many cases, juveniles have been so treated. As Governor of South Carolina, I am deeply concerned with this situation.

Many juvenile delinquents who are incarcerated in regular jails and are sentenced to chain gangs and the State Penitentiary should instead be paroled into custody or sent to the State Reformatory. They are often thrown into contact with hardened criminals and as a result begin lives of crime themselves.

In all counties of the State which do not have special juvenile courts, the Probate Judge may exercise jurisdiction over juvenile offenders. The Probate Judge may decide the disposition of such cases after informal hearings.

I urge strongly that Probate Judges assume jurisdiction over juvenile offenders, and that all Sheriffs and Police Chiefs of South Carolina refer their juvenile cases to their Probate Judges, whenever possible.

I heartily commend the objectives of the Junior Chamber of Commerce plan.