



"Students with typewriters get better grades, Dad... with a new formal I could attract a boy who has one."

Committees to Study Methods of Regulating Vehicle Repair Shops

By VINCENT THOMAS
Assemblyman, 68th District
Like everything else man-made, motor vehicles are subject to wear and tear. Depending on the use, or abuse, given them they wear slowly or fast, or are damaged by mishaps or accidents.

But man, with his usual ingenuity, has developed repair shops to restore them to usefulness. Such facilities have taken a vital part in maintaining the millions of wheels which keep our California progress rolling.

SINCE the mechanical condition of autos is frequently directly related to traffic safety, our legislative attention has been called many times to various proposals for legal supervision over vehicle operating condition. In several past sessions, bills calling for compulsory periodical inspection of cars have been introduced but did not pass.

Two such measures appeared at our last meeting, and met the same fate. However, two resolutions calling for study of the idea were adopted, so hearings on them will probably be scheduled in the future. Some 20 other states now have compulsory inspection laws.

ANOTHER FORM of proposed legislation in this field would require the licensing of repair shops, and the certification of automobile mechanics. Such a measure was introduced in the 1959 Legislature, but was not enacted. It was reintroduced in our last session, did not pass, but was referred for interim study.

The Assembly interim committee on transportation and commerce recently held a hearing on the subject. Considerable testimony both favoring and opposing the idea was received.

IN BRIEF, the proposal calls for the licensing of every public motor vehicle repair shop by the department of motor vehicles. A license fee to defray the cost of administering

the system would be imposed. The department would be required to prescribe rules as to minimum facilities and service procedures which every shop must maintain. Each shop would have to furnish proof that it is complying with applicable local fire, sanitary and safety ordinances.

Every person would be prohibited from performing any mechanical repair work in such a shop unless he has a certificate from the division of apprenticeship standards showing four years experience as an auto or truck mechanic, is employed as a trainee in a special field, or is an actual apprentice. Employment of anyone in violation of these provisions would be grounds for revocation of a shop license.

AN ORGANIZATION of machinists, in supporting the proposal, argued that its enactment would be in the public interest for two basic reasons. First, it would tend to improve the quality of service given motor vehicle owners. Second, it would help to better traffic safety by reducing accidents caused by inferior workmanship.

Opposition to the idea was expressed by spokesmen representing motor car dealers, independent garage owners, service station owners, and owners of special service shops, such as muffler and brake services. They called attention to many fundamental questions which such a measure would raise.

FOR INSTANCE, could a service station attendant install a fan-belt without a certificate? How would the word "repair" be defined without involving the state in the problem of guaranteed work? Would the owner-operator of a one-man shop be required to secure a certificate?

They asserted that such a law would have little effect on quality of service or traffic safety.

Parents Group Schedules Dance As Benefit for Retarded Children

The Southwest Assn. for Retarded Children will hold its annual dinner-dance on Saturday, Nov. 4, at the Gardena Elks Club, 162nd and Western Aves., Gardena. Donation is \$7.50 per person. There will be a social hour from 7 to 8 p.m., with dinner at 8 and dancing to follow. Music will be by Al Sanada and his Serenaders.

Proceeds benefit the association's building fund, which will be used to build an activity center for the retarded in the

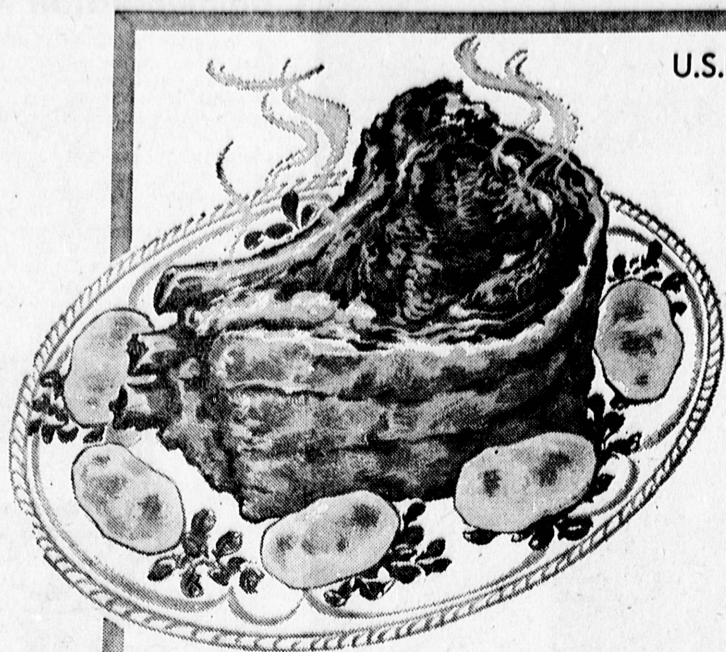
Southwest area. The public is invited to attend the dance.

The monthly meeting will be held next Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in the Columbia School cafeteria, 4502 W. 136th St. The speaker will be author, psychologist, and teacher, Dr. Norma V. Scheidenann. She teaches at Pepperdine College and UCLA Extension classes. Her two textbooks, "Psychology of Exceptional Children," Volumes 1 and 2, were the first in the field. The public is invited



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