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Sanders: JUVENILE COURTS IN NORTH CAROLINA

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JUVENILE COURTS IN NORTH CAROLINA. By *Wiley B. Sanders*. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press. 1948. Pp. vii, 210. \$4.00.

Dr. Sanders, a professor of Social Work at the University of North Carolina and author of many studies in the field of juvenile delinquency, covers the legal and statistical aspects of delinquency for the entire state of North Carolina. The book is based on statistics of two consecutive five-year periods, July 1, 1934, to June

30, 1939, and July 1, 1939, to June 30, 1944, thus permitting some comparisons and contrasts as well as indicating some interesting trends. In order to present a sound statistical survey, Dr. Sanders has been careful in his definitions and in selection of the material to be used in his study. As a result, there is no doubt as to his methodology or the meaning of the tables he presents. Different interpretations of the same terminology as applied by the courts to white and Negro cases are taken into account and reconciled as much as possible. Weaknesses of the North Carolina system are pointed out, as, for example, that truancy is only fifth in the list of delinquency charges in a state that averaged only 69.5% daily school attendance over a two-year period. The statistical tables compare the delinquency rates according to sex and color, and in addition compare rural and urban communities. Statistical tables for dependent children, concerning the questions of dependency and court wards, are also included. The author devotes a large part of his book to a careful outlining of the judicial process in handling juveniles in North Carolina. He discusses the selection, educational background and remuneration of judges and probation officers, and their cooperation. Dr. Sanders emphasizes two points: first, that the spirit and purpose of the juvenile court is not to punish the child but to protect him; and second, that delinquency, contrary to popular opinion, is not growing but diminishing in North Carolina. The book closes with a summary of findings and recommendations.