



Questions of broad interest—particularly involving government agencies—are answered in this column which appears on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. We cannot answer or acknowledge every query, and answers appear only in these columns.

Q. What are the ages to permit a high school student to drop out of his school?—Mrs. C. M.

A. A 1968 survey report indicates that 16 is the age when a person may leave school. However, Mississippi does not include compulsory education in the state statutes, South Carolina has no provision and Virginia the age is governed by passage of local laws. The survey included 15 Southern states.

Q. I am writing concerning the sign at the brake tag station which says: "Vehicles tested at owner's risk." How can the city force you, in effect, to have your car inspected at its own station and at the same time tell you that this is being done at your risk? Is this legal?—S. A. C.

A. A member of the Legal Department of New Orleans says this is legal. Any business or establishment has the right to erect such a sign.

Q. My personal property tax bill from the city for 1969 for an automobile is \$3.70. Last year it was \$1.46. What caused the change?—E. R. B.

A. A spokesman for the tax department says models from 1960-1964 have now a minimum assessment of \$100 which would bring the bill to \$3.70. The millage went up this year 50 cents per \$1,000 assessment.

Q. Are the materials being used in the sex education classes being conducted in this parish approved or adopted by the State Board of Education?—M. S.

A. This is a pilot program and although the proposal was approved by the school board the State Board of Education does not give formal approval to materials used in pilot programs until the program becomes permanent.

Q. I have been reading your accounts of the trial of Clay Shaw. I have never felt that I could agree with the Warren Report and I applaud Jim Garrison's courage in his effort to show that "there is something rotten somewhere." I admire the group of people who bought a full page in your newspaper. Where may I write to this group?—E. R.

A. A letter may be addressed to Dr. Frank E. Minyard, chairman of the Citizens of New Orleans, California Building, 1111 Tulane ave.

Write Your Questions to the States-Item

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