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## Only 7 States In South Have Poll Taxes

4 Considering Ban  
On Levy or Changes  
In Constitution

By RICHARD WALLACE  
Scripture-Howard Staff Writer

MEMPHIS, May 5—The poll tax is dying out in the South.

Only seven states now have such taxes as a requirement for voting, and four of those are considering changes in their constitutions or otherwise to do away with them.

In Tennessee the legislature has whittled it away until it applies to only a small group. The state constitution provides for a tax of not less than 50 cents on all male citizens.

Calls for Referendum  
In the rest of the South, the trend is pretty much the same. The South Carolina House has passed a bill which calls for a referendum on a constitutional amendment to repeal the poll tax.

In Arkansas the voters have cleared the way for repeal by eliminating a ban against voter registration in the constitution.

In Virginia, two sessions of the general assembly have voted to put poll tax repeal up to the voters next November.

The Texas Senate has adopted a resolution which would submit to the people a constitutional amendment abolishing the poll tax. The resolution now goes to the house where it is expected to pass.

Gov. Jim Folsom of Alabama has gone on record as opposed to his state's \$1.50 tax and bills for a constitutional amendment are expected to be filed when the legislature convenes next month. Prospects for repeal are not too bright, however.

## Quits Shanghai



Adm. George Crawford

Rear Adm. George Crawford, commander of U. S. Naval forces in the Shanghai area, was ordered to speed from the city to escape a Communist trap that threatened to cut the Whangpoo River, only outlet to the sea. The sudden departure of the fleet left over 2000 Americans stranded in Red-menaced Shanghai.

## Pyromaniac Hunted In Blaze Fatal to 5

JERSEY CITY, N. J., May 5 (UP)—A pyromaniac was sought by police today for starting a fire in a baby carriage which swept a three-story tenement building and killed five members of Street Cleaner Frank Guazzo's family yesterday.

"There is no doubt in my mind that this fire was touched off," Fire Capt. Henry Grabedunkle said.

Capt. Grabedunkle said the fire was started in the same way as five or six lesser blazes in the same area recently.

## U. S. Car Drivers Absent Minded

Motorists Forget  
Almost Everything

Times Special Service  
WASHINGTON, May 5—Forgetting seems to be the main trouble of American motorists.

Increasing numbers are forgetting that cars still can get stuck in the mud, that a car needs a key, that gasoline doesn't last forever, that headlights need occasional checking.

This situation is reflected in a report from the American Automobile Association on auto breakdowns.

It shows that breakdowns increased 8.9 per cent—from 37,280,000 in 1947 to 40,566,000 in 1948—on the basis of data from 16,000 AAA affiliates in the U. S. and Canada.

Chief breakdown cause still is the tire blowout, but it's on the decline—from 8,864,000 in 1947 to 8,660,000 in 1948.

The number of drivers whose cars got stuck rose 47 per cent from 1947 to 1948.

There was 43.1 increase in the number who had lock and key trouble. Some of this was due to frozen locks. Some of it was caused by forgetful drivers pushing those automatic lock buttons and slamming the doors—with the keys still inside.

The number of drivers who forgot to buy gas before the tank ran dry was up 28.4 per cent. Among those who let their lights go bad the increase was 38.2 per cent.

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