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## Public Defenders

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### PUBLIC DEFENDERS

The creation of the office of Public Defender is meeting with more and more favor throughout the country. The following localities are reported to have found such an officer of definite and distinct value in the effort to achieve cheaper, prompter and more equitable administration of criminal justice: Los Angeles County, California; City of Los Angeles, California; San Francisco, California; Omaha, Nebraska; Minneapolis, Minnesota; St. Paul, Minnesota; Hartford County, Connecticut; New Haven County, Connecticut; New London County, Connecticut.

Unless the long-accepted theory that courts of justice exist to find the needle of truth in every stack of broken and confused bits of evidentiary fact is now to be discarded, there is no real justifiable reason for denying to any accused the same processes that are offered to the representatives of the State. In fact, the only reason seriously advanced in opposition to the enactment of Public Defender statutes is that of financial cost; and that is not a reason, it is only an excuse.

Our own Legislature might well have employed some of its time during the session just closed in giving consideration to this particular subject. In the language of no less a person than Chief Justice Taft we say: "We shall have to come, and ought to come, to the creation in every criminal court of the office of public defender, and he should be paid out of the treasury of the county or the state."