

MAINE COMMUTES '37 SLAYER'S TERM

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**Dwyer, Now 40, Will Be
Freed—Case Commanded
Wide Attention in State**

AUGUSTA, Me., Oct. 8 (AP)—Paul N. Dwyer won a commutation of his life term today in Maine's most celebrated murder case.

Gov. Clinton A. Clauson cut his sentence to twenty-eight years and five months. That means Dwyer will be eligible for parole Oct. 19.

Now 40 years old, Dwyer has

been behind bars at Thomaston Penitentiary since 1937. He was described as a model prisoner.

The commutation came five days short of the twenty-second anniversary of a murder that sent two men to prison, each having accused the other. The victim was an elderly country physician, Dr. James G. Littlefield of South Paris, where Dwyer had grown up. One of Dwyer's girls friends then was Barbara Carroll, daughter of Francis Carroll, a deputy sheriff.

On Oct. 16, 1937, Dwyer was found asleep in a parked car in North Arlington, N. J. The police searched the car and found the bodies of Dr. Littlefield and his wife. Dwyer said he had killed both—the doctor because of "a crack he made about my girl," the wife be-

cause she had become suspicious.

Dwyer changed his story later, saying robbery had been his motive. He was convicted and sentenced to life.

Months later, Carroll was arrested on a charge of incest involving his daughter. He was indicted, not on that charge, but for the slaying of Dr. Littlefield. Dwyer, as the chief state witness, said Carroll had bludgeoned and strangled the doctor because he had known of the incest.

Carroll was also sentenced to life. In 1950, however, he won freedom when a judge ruled his trial had not been fair. He died in 1956.

Dwyer maintained his innocence. He said he had pleaded guilty for fear that the deputy, who had been his jailer, would kill him and his mother, Mrs. Jessie Mann, who now lives in Worcester, Mass.