

# SCHOOL TEACHERS ATTACKING VIOLENCE PROBLEM

Violence and vandalism in the nation's public schools no longer is kid stuff, the National Educational Association emphasizes in a current publication. It has reached crisis proportions.

Last year American school children committed 100 murders, 12,000 armed robberies, 9,000 rapes, and 204, aggravated assaults against teachers and each other, says the special feature in the February issue of NEA Reporter, a publication sent to the Association's 1.7 million members. Children also were responsible for 207,000 school burglaries and vandalized over \$600 million worth of school property.

NEA Vice-President Willard McGuire declares: "Something must be done about students who are engaging in serious criminal offenses. No English teacher should have to rehabilitate heroin pushers.... We should define a reasonable range of problems which teachers can or should be able to deal with and not be expected to solve every problem.... A good professional teacher is a poor amateur policeman."

Although only a small percentage of students are participants in this juvenile crime wave, the havoc they create has spread nearly everywhere -- to suburbs and rural communities as well as inner cities.

Fear and violence, says a city official, are frightening many students out of an education. And Sen. Birch Bayh of Indiana asserts that "the primary concern in many American schools today is no longer education, but preservation."

Who's to blame for these gun- and knife-toting kids, these teenage terrorists? Who are accountable for students who have become alcoholics or

are drug addicts, or who operate extortion rings, promote prostitution, and even commit murders?

Teachers point the finger at parents who are permissive, hostile, or indifferent, says the feature. Parents accuse teachers of either leniency or rigidity. School officials lay the problem on the doorstep of parents who demand stricter rules, then accuse teachers of unfairness when their children are involved.

Television violence and spreading family disorganization also get a goodly share of blame for the soaring school crime rates.

School violence is being combatted in schools across the nation, the series of articles explains. Many teacher associations are getting firm and enforceable discipline regulations in their contracts. Millions are being spent on sophisticated security systems and armed police patrols in and around troubled schools. Closed-circuit television, electric sensors, walkie-talkies, pocket-

size "panic buttons" that allow teachers to signal the central office when threatened by youths-- these already are used when crime stalks the corridors and classrooms. Among futuristic items likely to be added is a wrist device, under development, that sends an automatic signal to a central office when the person wearing it is frightened or threatened.

NEA Vice-President McGuire points out that we must deal more effectively with the whole gamut of violence in American society.

"The President of the United States appears to condone violence in South Boston and an adult in Kanawha County, W. Va., used dynamite to put love and Christian virtue into textbooks. If we are going to ignore twelve hours of violence on television, how can we expect to eliminate five minutes of it in the classroom." McGuire also points to our condoning of violence in IQ testing and racism.



## BLACK PIONEERS

Black pioneers were saluted by the Capital Press Club at the Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C., recently. The banquet marked the thirty-first anniversary of the Capital Press Club which lists as members seventy-five Blacks involved with media in the nation's Capital. Pictured at the Gulf sponsored reception for honorees are (left to right) John Calhoun, Special Assistant to the President of the United States; Ms. Brenda Joyce, Public Affairs Representative, Gulf Oil Corporation; Mr. Roy Wilkins, Executive Director of the NAACP; Mr. Stan Scott, Assistant Administrator of the Bureau for Africa, Agency for International Development (AID); Mr. Adam Wade, honored for being the first Black host of a network game show, and Mrs. Betty Scott.

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## And that's how the Hattens decided to get a phone in the rec room.

Right when it was Dad's turn to play, and Susie was just about to win, Dad had a phone call.

So while he talked and talked in the living room, Susie waited and waited on pins and needles in the rec room.

That was on Monday night.

On Tuesday, Mom called and ordered an extension phone for the rec room.

Now when Dad gets a call while the family is having fun,

he can play and talk at the same time. No more pins and needles for Susie.

The cost? Pennies a day.

To order your extension phones, call our Business Office. We'll set a date to come over and put in those extra phones wherever you want them.

Susie could sure tell you about a good room to put at the top of your list.



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