

YOUTH CRIME

Delinquency Seen as Way Of Getting Recognition

By ALPHONZO BELL, Congressman, 28th District

Almost daily and all across the country, headlines scream of teenage vandalism, crime and violence. For many youths, such activity provides individual recognition otherwise denied in a mechanized and urbanized society. For others, crime is a reaction to being caught in the "other" America, in the culture of poverty and repression. But delinquents choose a method of reaction that cannot be condoned.

Juvenile delinquency has been increasing for 15 years with the result that, today, young people are responsible for almost 50 per cent of all serious crimes committed in the nation. Between 1948 and 1956, juvenile court cases doubled in number; but the court age population grew by only 19 per cent. In 1964, there was a 14 per cent increase in such cases over the preceding year, but the population aged 10 through 17 rose by only 4 per cent. Offenses ranged from disorderly conduct through vandalism to homicide.

LAST YEAR, about 591,000 youngsters between 10 and 17 — 2 per cent of the total in this age group — were involved in juvenile cases other than traffic violations. Eleven per cent of all children in the

Marines Appeal For Aid

An appeal for help in the U. S. Marines RSVP program has been issued by Gunner Sergeant Chet Pavay of the Torrance Marine Corps recruiting station.

Sgt. Pavay said RSVP, (Rush Supplies to the Vietnamese People) is designed to assist the people of South Viet Nam overcome the obstacles to health, hygiene, and sanitation.

Operated as part of the People-to-People program begun by President Dwight Eisenhower, RSVP seeks to collect and forward supplies of soap and other items of common necessity, Sgt. Pavay explained. Marines stationed in South Viet Nam distribute the supplies to war-torn villages.

SUPPLIES are collected by Marines in the states and shipped to Marine bases in South Viet Nam. Torrance residents wishing to participate in the program may call Sgt. Pavay at 328-2330. Supplies may be delivered to the recruiting station at 2165 Torrance Blvd.

"Many of the villages have been destroyed, huts burned, and atrocities are committed daily against the common men struggling to eke out a meager living," Sgt. Pavay said. "The little people are the losers, no matter how the military side of the war goes," he added.

PROGRESS is being made, Sgt. Pavay said, but the surface hardly has been touched. "There is a crying need in the refugee areas for the means of gaining self-respect. A bar of soap can go a long way to help a poor peasant woman with dirty children," he said.

Especially needed, the sergeant added, are the things which we use daily and take for granted — soap, safety pins, plastic bandages, and other common items.

Checks Readied For Christmas Club Members

A sum of more than \$217,100 will be mailed to 1,551 Christmas Club savers in the Torrance area this month by Security First National Bank. Including the local area, Security Bank will dispense more than \$23,840,000 in Christmas funds among 137,439 savers in the Southern California area. The bank paid out more than \$21,115,000 to 121,730 savers in 1964.

United States will engage in delinquent behavior serious enough to bring them to court before they are 18, according to reliable estimates. The number brought before judges by no means indicates all instances of criminal misbehavior on the part of young people.

Most often, juvenile violence and crime are a part of the deeply rooted protest of the slum. Yet delinquent behavior is being found more and more among youngsters in other areas. In 1964 and in 1963, semi-urban communities reported greater increase in cases than did urban. Most alarming is the trend toward senseless brutality. While the number of vicious assaults has not increased out of proportion to other types of crime, younger age groups are participating in bizarre and violent actions.

BECAUSE the America of tomorrow rests with the youth of today, the implications go far beyond current headlines. Continually increasing delinquency forebodes a growing number of adults who at best will be burdens and at worst predators on society.

A federal program geared toward prevention and control has been established in the broad-range Juvenile Delinquency and Youth Offenses Control Act of 1961. With some of its projects still in the experimental stage, this program works with a complex interplay of causes, a problem that is part of the fabric of society. But a good approach will attempt to be both punitive and preventive. Environmental factors, if not improved, will surely increase the incidence of delinquency in the future. Through educa-

tion, employment opportunities, community programs, intensive counseling and probation services, through action at all levels, delinquency can be reduced.

The public must commit itself to the measures necessary to accomplish the reduction.

Thanksgiving Salute Slated By McMaster Park Children

Children participating in the McMaster Park program will present a special Thanksgiving program Wednesday, Nov. 24, at 7:30 p.m. Rehearsals for the program began Monday, according to the Torrance Recreation Department.

Boys and girls 7 years of age and older are participating in the program, which will be presented for friends and parents at the park. Registration for all fall and winter activities at the park is now open. A free crafts program now in progress also has some openings. Miss Bernadine Cadek is director of park activities. She may be reached by telephoning 327-7257, or visiting the park, 3624 W. Artesia Blvd., Monday through Friday from 3:30 until 9 p.m.

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