

N.Y. Going Through Period Of 'War' Against Youth Gangs

By DOC QUIGG
United Press Correspondent
New York — This city is going through a sickening period of "war" on a segment of its youth. The segment is a lawless fringe bred in poverty, brought up in bitterness in broken and alcoholic homes, left unloved and neglected by parents.

In the face of a flare-up of youth crime — three persons killed and four critically injured within a few days — the police department has thrown in 600 additional men, rookies from its academy, for patrol duty. It has called on parents to awaken to duty.

Juvenile offenders have killed 22 persons in New York City since the start of the year. This is not the result of gang warfare, although New York has

about 500 juvenile gangs with about 8,000 members. Of these, 110 are listed as "fighting gangs" which stir trouble.

Individual Type Crime
But the latest streak of beatings, assaults, and killings seems to be of individual, rather than gang, origin — "spontaneous, senseless attacks," in the words of Walter Arm, police deputy commissioner in charge of community relations.

If it is true that "juvenile crime reflects periods of adult tension, such as war or other unrest, or anxiety, a study of the police figures in New York City indicates a nervous period right now.

The published figures on yearly arrests of youths under 16 show 3,330 for the year 1940 — then a jump to 5,000-plus for

each of the war years 1943-44-45, with the last of those three showing nearly 6,000. In the postwar years of that decade the arrests ran along rather evenly at 3,500-plus, and in 1950 were 3,424 — lower than they were exactly 10 years earlier despite the population increase.

The Korean war started in 1950, and during the next three years the arrests were up to 4,000-plus. Then, instead of going down, they went like this: 6,012 in 1954; 6,578 in 1955; 8,714 last year.

Willie Mays, the baseball player, used to spend a great deal of his spare time away from the ball park playing stickball with the kids in his neighborhood.

When asked why this extra expenditure of energy on the part of a man who was already expending a great deal at his regular job, he pointed to the youngsters and said simply: "They need somebody."

You might be interested in contrasting this attitude of a man who obviously loved kids with a paragraph in a New York Times news story about neighborhood youth crime:

"A boy who has to sleep on a rooftop because he is afraid his father will come home drunk and beat him finds it difficult to resist the lure of the gang."

High Speed Bail-Outs
Object of Convair Test

Ford Worth, Tex. — Convair Aircraft Corp. has announced it has been making tests that may lead to successful bailouts from planes traveling at speeds faster than sound.

The company disclosed it has ejected anthropomorphic dummies—having moving joints and closely resembling the human body—from a nose section of Convair's supersonic B58 Hustler bomber.



ENDING a sensational two-week search for sadist who tortured and raped a pretty 19-year-old student nurse was the arrest and confession of 5-foot dope addict, Neal Bakkerud, 21, in San Francisco. (International)

500,000th Phone Installed by PT&T

Pacific Telephone and Telegraph company installed its 500,000th telephone in Oregon Tuesday, Aug. 6, just four days after its 70th birthday, according to Medford Manager J. H. Creager.

In Medford, the number of telephones has increased during the past ten years from 6,710 to 14,176.

The occasion of the 500,000th installation was observed in Salem by presentation to Gov. Robert D. Holmes of a green Speakerphone, a microphone-type instrument which requires no conventional receiver to operate.

F. A. Dresslar, vice president and general manager for PT&T in Oregon, made the presentation. He commented on the growth in Oregon during the past 10 years. The company has installed as many phones in that period as it did in the first 69 years of its existence.

Controversy Boils Over Teaching Foreign Languages to Youngsters

Washington — Should Johnny learn how to say "Buenos dias" in the fourth grade?

Debate on the question is gathering steam today as more and more Johnnies in the public schools are learning to jabber in foreign tongues when barely out of toddler clothes.

Proponents of foreign language instruction from kindergarten on up argue that today's shrinking world demands that Americans climb up from their low standing on the world linguistic ladder.

They claim early childhood is the easiest and best time to begin; that children themselves

are enthusiastically receptive and that it broadens horizons for countless pursuits in later schooling and adult life.

Some Criticize Program

Critics feel grade school languages are of doubtful value and a needless luxury in already pinched school budgets, an imposition on the child and a sacrifice of other more important curricula.

Both sides agree on one point: The movement to foreign languages in the elementary schools has had a phenomenal growth in the past five years.

A survey of the modern language association published by the U. S. office of Education showed that "at least" 271,617 grade school youngsters, kindergarten through grade six, were getting foreign language instruction in 1955.

That's small compared to the 26 million enrolled in the public grade schools. But the figure is more than one-third of the foreign language enrollment in high schools and fast approaching the number taking foreign languages in college.

Interest Snowballing
The 1955 grade school instruction was going on in 1,977 schools in 357 towns in 45 states and represented a whopping 300 per cent increase in three years.

Both sides also agree on another point. That is that the most

critical problem in the grade school language picture is the shortage of competent teachers — teachers fluent in languages with special talent for teaching the new hearing-speaking approach.

The demand for competent teachers has sparked a flourishing of teacher workshops, guides, manuals, tapes, records

and audio-visual aids designed to help fill the gap. The District of Columbia is one area that has tried closed-circuit TV teaching of foreign languages.

In Albuquerque, N. M., the school system felt it could meet the pressure for grade school Spanish in the bilingual state only to the extent of having three roving teachers among 12 of its 67 schools. Parents won approval last year to hire more teachers to instruct optional classes in pre-school hours — paid from a parent-financed kitty.



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