

Gang Fights Staged for Control of N.Y. Schools; Judge Issues Warning

Editor's note: This is the second of two articles on criminal violence in New York schools and what the city is doing about it.

By ALBERT McCOLLOUGH
United Press Correspondent
New York — A "hard core" of teen-age hoodlums among New York's one million school children has risen to the point of staging gang fights for control of individual schools, reports a judge who sentenced five young gang members for ambushing and wounding three rivals.

"The time is coming fast when some jury or authority must take drastic action if the city does not want some of these schools run by the law of the jungle," Kings County (Brooklyn) Judge George J. Joyce warned.

such schools already operating, add six more, at least doubling the total of 1,200 pupils now sent to such schools.

—Expand space in institutions for youngsters who can not be rehabilitated in either the special schools or at home.

—Change the laws, including those that now compel school attendance through age 16. Lower that limit by at least a year; Mayor Robert F. Wagner has tentatively suggested allowing youngsters to quit at 14 if they obtain full-time jobs.

—Improve and expand psychiatric, guidance and counseling facilities.

—Improve school cooperation with other city agencies to combat delinquency.

Boost teacher morale with assurance of official support for "reasonable" disciplinary

classroom action again unruly pupils.

New Measures Too Late?
Will these measures lick the problem, and do it soon enough? Even as the board was putting the finishing touches on its plan, a Manhattan high school student stopped a fellow student on a stairway, robbed him of a wristwatch and all his cash—70 cents. A similar robbery took place in the same school barely a week earlier.

On the day the plan was announced Judge Joyce warned fast action was needed and disclosed that the five teen-age members of the "Stone-killers" gang he had just sentenced to a reformatory for up to five years had been fighting the "Bishops" gang for control of Brooklyn's Francis Scott Key Junior high school and the community center it houses.

The new special schools proposed won't be built tomorrow. Funds for them are provided in the 1958-59 school budget, which still has long legal procedures to go through before it receives final approval.

Furthermore, these schools—five for boys, one for girls—are all on the elementary level, unlikely to be of help to children above 15 years of age at most.

More Help Needed
School authorities say far more help from social workers, psychologists, psychiatrists, is needed, but there is not enough money to hire more.

The 1958-59 budget, before receiving even tentative approval from the board, suffered two sharp cuts, one of \$14 million to provide more such counseling and other facilities, another of \$30 million to raise teachers' salaries.

And police have entered the schools, despite Mayor Wagner's earlier declaration that "we don't want to run an educational system with a policeman standing over it."

The ultimate solution, the school board's statement of plans points out, lies in recognition that "discipline does not begin and end at the school door . . . proper respect for law and order is the responsibility of the family and of all authorities who have to do with the daily life of the child . . . there is no substitute for the principles of religion and morality."

PTC Officials Escape Arrest

Portland — Attorneys for the State Public Utilities Commission failed Thursday in an attempt to bring about the arrest of three Portland Traction Company officials in connection with stopping of Bellrose and Oregon City interurban service.

PUC attorney Irving Allen asked Circuit Judge Charles W. Redding to issue bench warrants for the arrest of Charles C. Bowen, E. E. Vonderahe, and P. A. Adams.

Allen sought the arrests because of the traction company's failure to obey Judge Redding's order directing the company to restore interurban passenger service on its Rose City and Bellrose trolley lines.

Judge Redding said he would not issue any warrants without giving the PTC officials a chance to be heard. Judge Redding also noted that counsel for the PUC previously had informed him that the maximum penalty a judge could impose for disregarding his order to restore service was a \$10,000 fine.

Redding's order was in the nature of a peremptory writ of mandamus supporting an earlier order of State Public Utility Commissioner Howard Morgan directing PTC to restore passenger service on the two lines from Portland. PTC has appealed Judge Redding's peremptory writ of mandamus to the Oregon Supreme Court, and the case is pending.

New York Schools To Suspend Pupils In Criminal Cases

School officials disagree that the schools are a mess, and say the number of problem children is less than one per cent of the enrollment. Nevertheless, the board approved a six-point program this week aimed at weeding out the trouble makers and preventing more from springing up.

Police Protection Used
At the same time, it went along, though reluctantly, with demands for police patrol of the schools where violence has been worst. Though vigorously opposed to use of police throughout the system, officials have emphasized that principals are free to ask for whatever police protection they feel is needed.

Seven schools now have a policeman assigned inside the building; 34 more are guarded by patrolmen on permanent posts just outside.

But what about longer-range measures?

What to do, for example, with teen-agers who have rebelled against further schooling, have completed institutional sentences—and by law are compelled to return to the very schools they hate until they turn 17?

What to do with the 200 emotionally disturbed Brooklyn children turned away by the Child Guidance Bureau for treatment because its facilities were overloaded without another 200 already referred to it this year?

It will take time to find the answers.

Six-Point Program
These are the paths the Board of Education outlined in its newly adopted program to combat school crime:

- Segregate the trouble makers. Put them in special schools where, in small classes, they can get expert help and teaching. To the five

officials indicated up to 600 pupils might be affected.

The school board was said to have adopted its new policy as the immediate result of two incidents Wednesday in which a school monitor was stabbed by a fellow student and another monitor was beaten unconscious by three other pupils.

The beating and stabbing were the latest incidents in a wave of teen-age violence that has included two rapes inside schools.

A few hours before the suspension order was issued, a grand jury that has been investigating school violence in Brooklyn handed up a fifth presentment critical of school policies in handling juvenile delinquency. The jury urged a broader policy on weeding out lawless youths from the schools and declared "prompt emergency action is necessary."

Noting that a previous Board of Education statement had said less than one per cent of the school system's nearly one million pupils were problem children, the grand jury said "this means there are nearly 10,000 serious aggressive and disruptive children" menacing the remainder.

Segregation Planned
The jury suggested that existing schools "be used to contain these undesirable elements" without waiting for establishment of the six new special schools in which officials plan to segregate difficult pupils starting next fall. Five such schools containing 1,200 pupils are operating now.

The grand jury, which has been involved in a running fight with the school board, announced Thursday that it expected to complete its investigations and make a final report soon.

Reporter Finds Humans Still Human

Gastonia, N. C. — Reporter Bill Williams, who has just completed a panhandler survey, reports that "humans are still human." Fifty per cent of them, anyway.

Williams got himself up as a hobo and made two dozen or so house calls, asking for food. At half the homes he got a handout.

The reporter's final conclusions:

1. People are pretty generous, after all.
2. The life of a hobo isn't as bad as he'd pictured it.
3. Livermush is a popular ingredient for sandwiches in Gastonia.

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First C119 Packet At Portland Airport

Portland — A C-119 Packet arrived at Portland Air Base Thursday from Germany, the first such aircraft of its type to be stationed at the Air Force Reserve here.

The new type plane can carry up to 62 paratroopers, compared to 52 in the C-46. It will see duty here with the 313th Air Force Reserve

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Try and Stop Me

By BENNETT CERF

A CHAP WHO LOVED his weekend golf was laid low by an attack of gripe. After a fortnight, he was all set to resume play when he suffered a relapse. "Why can't you play this time?" grumbled his constant opponent on the links. "Let me put it this way," said the stricken one glumly. "My trouble is an overlapping gripe."

"When we speak of the Seven Seas," proposed the professor, "let us be specific." "Okay," agreed a fresh Frosh. "You be specific, and I'll be Atlantic."

A tearful bride explained why she wanted to leave her brand-new husband. "He said that on our honeymoon we would drink in all the sights of Manhattan—but instead, he drank up all the Mannhattans in sight."

Two cows tried to nudge their way inside a barn at the same time. "Take it easy, sister," cautioned one. "Where were you brought up in a house?"

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4-H CLUB NEWS

Eagle Point Child Care Club
A meeting of the Eagle Point Child Care club was held in the school cafeteria Feb. 4.

The meeting was called to order by vice president Martha Armstrong. We completed plans on our skating party, Feb. 7. We planned further on our Mothers Tea, Feb. 22.

Our visitor was Miss Gardner, the county extension agent. She gave us some ideas about demonstrations and the Friendship Follies.

The next meeting will be in two weeks.
Helen Vickaren, Reporter

Shady Cove 4-H Club
The Shady Cove sewing and cooking club met at home of their leader, Mrs. Cecil Kee. Our new extension agent, Miss Garner, met with us and talked about demonstrations.

At a recent meeting we decided to change our name from the Shining Pots and Basting Beauties to the Shady Cove 4-H club.

The new officers are, president, Carol Hale; vice president, Linda Paulson; secretary, Dinne Stoll; news reporter, Cecilia Kee; song and game leader, Susann Turner.
Cecilia Kee Reporter

Portland Girl Putter Finger on Attacker
Portland — Police said today a girl who suffered a skull fracture Jan. 11 when she was slugged on a Portland street had identified a man serving a 90-day jail sentence as her attacker.

The girl, Margaret A. Canfield, picked the suspect's picture from 18 police photographs. Police said a grand jury indictment would be sought against the man.

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