



**BURGLARY:** Phil Morgan's wife woke him at 3 a.m. to say she heard a noise downstairs. Phil heard a rattling sound. It could have been a burglar. He had a gun in a bureau drawer. What would you have done?

1. Turned on all the lights to frighten any burglar away.
2. Cocked the gun and tiptoed downstairs.
3. Slipped the phone under the blanket and quietly called the police.

Phil chose the gun. Five minutes later he was wounded, and the burglar had escaped. Phil had been a sleepy amateur taking on a pro. The end could have been worse. Many an innocent person has been shot by an overzealous householder. Guns are too deadly to use unless you know exactly what you are doing.

Should Phil have turned on the lights? No. The man might have been scared off—to try again elsewhere.

We would prefer that Phil had called us. Sure, it might have been the cat or the wind. But we're up all night anyway. We would rather catch a burglar now than have to hunt him later. And if it's a false alarm, believe me, we're just as pleased to find we don't have to face an armed thief. Hesitating to call the police for fear of embarrassment has lost us many an arrest and helped many a criminal.

**STRANGER AT THE DOOR:** When Jean Parish answered her doorbell one day, she encountered a nice-looking man who said he was from a consumer poll. Jean asked for identification. He smiled and showed her a sheaf of interview forms. Then he asked her questions about herself, her possessions, and those of her neighbors. What would you have done?

1. Invited him in to chat and relieve the housework monotony.
2. Answered the questions briefly but kept him at the door.
3. Refused to answer questions and called the police.

Jean knew that criminals gain entrance by using the guise of a salesman, pollster, or charity collector. So she answered his questions but kept him at the door. That night, three houses on the street were burglarized.

Jean should have asked for better identification than just some forms. And if she had any reason for suspicion, she should have phoned us. We could have had a police car check out the man. It is very important for us to know when strangers loiter in a neighborhood.

We can't be on your block all the time; we must depend on your vigilance. It is a rare



burglar who breaks in without some idea of where he is going and what he hopes to get. So don't feel foolish. Call us. Be our eyes in your neighborhood. We'll appreciate it.

**ASSAULT:** Mr. and Mrs. George Gomez were driving home on their street when they heard a woman scream. Stopping, they saw a woman being threatened by a man with a knife. What should they have done?

1. Driven on and stayed out of trouble.
2. Jumped from the car, grabbed the man.
3. Yelled at the attacker to go away and then called the police.

Gomez acted correctly. He shouted at the attacker, diverting his attention. Then he turned his car lights on the scene, honked his horn, and shouted for his neighbors. House lights went on, and people appeared. Gomez yelled to someone to call the police. Surrounded by lights and noise, the man ran, but we caught him an hour later.

Too often recently, bystanders have ignored fellow citizens in dire trouble, which is shameful and uncivilized. Their reasons seem to be two: fear of reprisal and fear of being hurt.

As for reprisal, no one but the police need know you called in an emergency. As for being hurt, you can protect others without danger. Light and noise frighten off most criminals. So do large numbers of people.

So make a fuss; call others. Calling us is right, but diverting someone who is attacking another person may be necessary to save a life until we can get to the scene.

**GAMBLING:** The fellow at the desk next to Jim Kent loved to play the horses. And he told Jim he didn't have to go to the track; he had only to pick up the phone and place his bets with a bookie. Illegal betting is a crime. What would you have done?

1. Urged your friend not to break the law by using a bookie.
2. Minded your own business.
3. Called the police and made a report.

Most of us know the third choice is proper. But most of us follow the second choice. We feel that gambling is a minor offense and that if friends want to waste their money on bookies it is not our affair.

But innocent as it may seem, your "friendly, local bookmaker" is the backbone of big crime in America. Last year Americans went to bookies with 50 billion dollars, half the national budget. The profits were used to back dope rings and every other reprehensible form of vice possible.

A telephone operation, such as Jim Kent heard of, is never small. And if we knew of all the places that thousands of nongambling citi-

zens know about, we might well be able to cripple the big crime syndicates. Moreover, if Jim calls us, neither he nor his friend will become involved. There is nothing to fear.

Gambling is not the only law people wink at. Most alcoholism begins in adolescence. It couldn't begin without illegal drinking by minors. Rarely do neighbors complain about "small" antisocial crimes committed by the kids next door; but the next antisocial acts may become more serious.

These seemingly minor violations of the law are often symptoms, precursors of serious crimes to come. Honesty may only be a habit of mind, but it is essential if we are to preserve our laws and our society.

Remember that you, through your representatives, make the laws. We merely enforce them. If a law is wrong, change it. But while the law stands, please give us your cooperation by observing it.

Remember, too, it is you we are trying to protect. Without your help, crimes are certain to grow as they are growing now. And you may have to pay the price of the next crime.