

So often one may say or do something thoughtlessly, not with the intent of hurting another, though that may be what happens. As a motorist is required to be alert to traffic, in each of us must be alert to what we say and do, to avoid problems.

## 1st Half of Youth Study Committee Report

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This is the first half of the text of the report on local juvenile and teenage problems which was released last week by the special youth study committee of the Council of Community Services of the Birmingham-Bloomfield-Franklin area. The council's board members were to meet Jan. 19 to discuss the report's recommendations for a permanent youth committee.

Birmingham police records show an increase of arrests among young people. And there is growing concern in the community about the social attitudes and behavior of a small portion of our youth population. Many other communities across the country have the same problem.

To face it squarely, with a view to reversing the trend, necessitates determining causes, understanding them and taking curative and preventive action.

In 1952 the Council of Community Services of Birmingham-Bloomfield-Franklin was formed for the purpose of participating in program planning, making recommendations and coordinating social services within the entire community. (As used in this report the "community" refers to the total area served by the Council of Community Services, the Birmingham-Bloomfield-Franklin area.)

At the request of a group of citizens concerned over the problem of increased delinquency among our young people, the council agreed to make a study of the problem. A youth study committee was appointed to study and recommend action to the council.

**THE YOUTH** study committee believes that the people of this community want to develop and maintain those conditions that will enable children and youth to grow up in the best possible way.

This calls for prevention as well as management of youth problems. To approach this high standard it is necessary to understand and deal with the causes of troublesome behavior.

It is recognized by criminologists, the FBI, sociologists and professionals in various phases of work with youth that delinquency, to a large extent, is born out of insecurity and emotional maladjustment in the early years of a child's life. It is also recognized that growing up today in an unsettled world presents problems which young people of the past never faced. The constant threat of war

for the normal growth and development of youth) this committee has identified certain needs.

**SOME OF** these are specific and immediate, others are viewed as a long-range program, involving a growing awareness of need on the part of residents in the area.

**Physical facilities** for sports and recreation have lagged in Birmingham. The board of education, the city commission and private agencies should consider the need for swimming, tennis and skating facilities and should work in coordination for the development of them.

The board of education and the city commission deserve the thanks of the people of Birmingham for constructing nine baseball diamonds. So far so good.

The movement toward developing a recreation program in Franklin is likewise to be commended.

**THE NEEDS** of the twelve through fourteen year old age group are of concern to this committee. The rapid growth and change in children in this period has a far extent for programs and facilities provided for education, recreation, and other services to young people.

What, then, are the prevailing conditions in this community? What kind of a "community climate" exists? Is it conducive to the normal growth and development of our younger citizens? Can it be improved? This was the first set of questions for which we sought answers.

**THE MEMBERS** of the committee who work with representatives of the majority of our young people have respect and admiration for their abilities to understand and deal with their own problems.

Parents, school people, recreation workers, both trained and volunteer, deserve praise for their efforts in behalf of this majority of our young citizens.

However, we believe that a broader and deeper understanding of young people's intellectual, emotional, and physical need on the part of the adults of the community would help all of our youth greatly in solving their problems.

Therefore, in considering the community front the normal climate required in the community

whereby an older student would help a new student to become adjusted. Personal interest in one of the most effective ways of helping young people make satisfactory adjustments to new situations.

**TRAINED** youth workers are needed urgently to extend recreational programs for all ages. (The recent addition of a trained youth worker to the Y.M.C.A. staff should help. However, many more are needed in the community.)

Programs and campaigns to "Use What We Have" have been carried out in other communities. Results are amazing. Our community might find it profitable to study such a plan.

The Community House and Y.M.C.A. are commended for their committee for working cooperatively to establish a wholesome program for young people.

It is hoped that the Y.M.A. will be able further to extend its program and develop its facilities.

**WE BELIEVE** that there should be additional recreational facilities in the Birmingham-Bloomfield-Franklin area. They should be a part of a coordinated plan of recreational facilities development within any one of all of the municipal entities involved.

An area recreation authority should be established to plan and develop facilities and a coordinated recreation program for the Birmingham-Bloomfield-Franklin area.

Private agencies, organizations at a state level.

### We Heard It Said By:

**REAR CITY COMMISSIONER VINCENT B. WATKIN** also an alderman to Birmingham City Council, said: "I know I look upon parking as a public utility. Street parking and similar matters were acceptable to city residents, but not any more. Street parking now is just like such a public utility as sewers, water and power."

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**TWO AREA MEN** HAVE BEEN named vice-presidents of Denham & company, Detroit industrial advertising and public relations agency. Kenneth W. Allison (right), 4045 Chestnut Hills, Troy township, joined the organization in 1948. He is a graduate chemical engineer of the University of Michigan, and was also a research engineer of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics. Donald D. Tweedie, 2080 Luckingham, a graduate of General Motors Institute, was associate editor of Purchasing News magazine before joining Denham & company several years ago. The appointments came with the incorporation of the Detroit, firm.

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