

Suburban Wave Of Rumors, Fear Worry' State Officials

As warm weather approaches, state officials are worried about the bad mood in Detroit's suburbs.

The mood shows up in the sale of guns, the target practice that even some housewives are engaging in, the rumors that race riots will be carried into the suburbs this year.

The State Civil Rights Commission is as much concerned about suburbia's mood as it is about the inner city's.

They're concerned for a number of reasons, this newspaper learned in a lunch session last week with a CRC staff member and several newspaper editors.

AN OBVIOUS reason for concern is that people hurt themselves with guns. Last week, a Detroit man, searching for a prowler, shot through a closed door and killed his little daughter.

It's a fact of life, too, that married couples sometimes have spats and that in a moment of wrath one partner might get mad enough to shoot the other. That can be done only when there's a gun in the house, and more and more suburbanites are buying guns.

"I told the Jaycees group out our way," said an editor, "that they'll realize how foolish this (gun-buying) is when some housewife shoots a meter reader. It's going to happen."

A SECOND REASON for state concern is that a Negro riot invasion of the suburbs is ridiculous.

Yet stories persist that there's a conspiracy afoot for an inner city group to roam suburban streets and kill the first white child in view.

A suburban publisher told of

Furnishings Stolen From Model Homes

Furnishings worth an estimated \$3,900 were stolen from two adjacent model homes in a Farmington Township subdivision this week, and then were recovered by Detroit police the following day.

Thieves struck Lincolnshire development models at 25905 Killebrew and 25971 Killebrew Wednesday night, reportedly packing a truck between the two homes and loading it with chairs, sofas, tables, lamps, pictures and other items, including a refrigerator.

Township police reported that although the truck had been located in Detroit, and the furnishings recovered, no arrests have yet been made.

Bowler Posts Perfect Score

Byron Sutherland, of 23672 Beacon Dr., Farmington, possessor of a 196 bowling average in regular league play, came up with the first 300 game of his career March 12 at the Bel Aire Lanes in Farmington. He posted the perfect score while competing in the 7 p.m. senior house league.

Draft Not Needed Here

A 13-year-old Albuquerque, N.M., boy has written President Johnson volunteering for the armed services in Vietnam. Anthony Macestas said he wrote the President after his cousin, Army Pfc. Juan H. Martinez, Jr., was killed in action near Saigon Jan. 6.

White House aide Whitney Shoemaker answered the boy's letter. "President Johnson was touched by your determination to join the armed forces," Shoemaker wrote, "but you can justify your cousin's sacrifice more effectively by finishing your education first."

Immigrants Aim For Canada

Canada granted landed immigrant resident status to 222,876 people last year, the highest total since 1957 when the 1956 Hungarian anti-Soviet uprising and the 1956 Middle East war spurred many of the 280,000 who came to Canada.

Britain and Italy in 1967 received by far the greatest sources of immigrants, but those from France increased to 10,122 from 7,872 in 1966 and the total from the United States rose to 19,038 from 17,514 the previous year.

a telephone call received from a mother who said her son was beaten up by three Negro youths. The publisher checked out the story. The police knew about it.

What happened, said the police was that the boy had got his clothing dirty and ripped playing with friends. He figured his parents would be angry at him. He knew his parents were deathly afraid of, and hated, Negroes. So he concocted the story of being beaten by Negroes

to get his parents' sympathy.

THE QUESTIONS that bothered everyone at the little meeting last week were: How many other people had heard the false story about the boy being beaten by Negroes? How far had it spread? If it had spread, how many people on television, how many people decided that the police are covering it up?

There's no doubt that city,

and federal officials are concerned about possible blow-ups in the inner cities. That's clear to anyone who has read this or any other newspaper.

What's also important, here in the suburbs, is the rumor-mongering, the fear, the political fanning of tensions that are going on among the supposedly sophisticated, supposedly secure, supposedly affluent white pillars of 20th century American society.

Medicaid's High Costs Plaguing N.Y., California

The medical industry's fees have been shooting upward since new federal medical programs went into effect. Congress and the administration are taking a hard look at the \$46 million industry.

Consider: Hospital charges have risen 31 per cent in the last two years.

Physicians' fees have gone up 14 per cent in the same time.

Since 1950 the average daily hospital room charge was around \$15. Today it is nearer to \$50 and in some New York hospitals \$100.

Median net income of U.S. physicians rose from 1959's level of \$16,000 to a 1966 level of \$32,000, according to Medical Economics magazine.

ON THE OTHER HAND, American Medical Association President Milford O. Rouse says that physicians' fee hikes have been "moderate" considering doctors' burdens.

He also asserted that medical care in the United States is the best in the world.

These claims and counter-claims will be aired extensively during the coming months by two White House commissions and four Senate committees, all charged with investigating various aspects of the controversy.

The aim is to try to pinpoint the causes of rising medical costs and deteriorating health standards and then decide what, if anything, the government can do about it.

The question of legislation

is an iffy one. Any proposal to establish a fixed-fee national health scheme similar to that in Britain and some other nations would get short shrift in Congress. But the legislators could impose a ceiling on fees paid under the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

They also could take action to improve nutrition and sanitation in the big city ghettos where illness and disease are contributing sharply to the decline in national health standards. Action to combat rural poverty is another possibility.

SURGEON GENERAL William H. Stewart, a physician who heads the U.S. Public Health Service, hopes the inquiries will focus on basic problems and won't turn into scrapes and muds.

Medical Economics Magazine estimates that the median fee charged by general practitioners has increased 25 per cent since the new federal programs went into effect. Hospital charges went up comparably.

The AMA and the American Hospital Association point out, however, that one reason why the median fees of physicians has gone up is that doctors are now getting paid, through Medicare or Medicaid, for patients whom they used to treat on a charity or token-fee basis.

And one of the reasons why hospital charges have risen is that their labor costs have risen sharply.

GOP Bans Floor Rallies At Miami

Republicans this year will put an end to the big floor demonstrations at their national convention in Miami.

The Republican National Committee has put an end to the hoopla tradition that has been in effect ever since Abe Lincoln was nominated in 1860.

No go-go girls. No college students carrying placards. No canteens. No balloons.

THE ONLY participants, according to the new rule, "shall be the delegates, alternates, Republican National Committee members and Republican state chairmen."

National Chairman Ray C. Bliss notes that governors, congressmen and delegates are generally beyond the age of marching up and down the convention hall aisles.

This reform was suggested by a committee formed after former President Eisenhower complained of the rowdiness of the GOP's 1964 convention.

STILL AWAITING national committee approval are recommendations for restricting the movements of newsmen on the convention floor, the elimination of the television camera stand which has blocked the view of those in the rear of convention auditoriums, and the use of uniformed professionals as sergeants-at-arms and gate keepers.

Also pending are proposals to limit the number and length of speeches, particularly second opening speeches, and the number of paid entertainers.

BLISS ANNOUNCED that Sen. George Murphy of California, a former motion picture actor, has agreed to take charge of the entertainment at Miami Beach.

Bliss pointed out that the convention rules apply only to demonstrations within the auditorium. Control of any demonstrations outside the hall will be

left to Florida state and local police, he added.

The remainder of the convention reform program will come up for consideration at the next meeting of the national committee in Portland, Ore., June 5.

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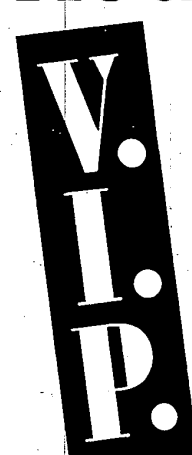
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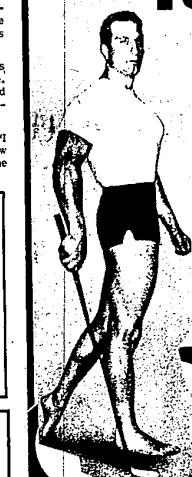
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