

NPTA schedules TV violence forum

In its effort to give the public a forum on what might be considered one of the most controversial issues today—TV violence and its effects on children—the National PTA is holding the fourth in its series of eight regional public hearings in Chicago on Tuesday, Jan. 25, at the Sheraton-Chicago Hotel.

The day-long hearing, part of the PTA's project on TV violence, will draw participants and audience from Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin.

"First of its kind, the project has been designed to focus attention on the potential effects of video violence on youngsters, and the need for better quality and more diversity in TV programming."

"We believe there is a causal relationship between violence seen on TV and aggressive, violent behavior among children," says Carol Kimmel, NPTA president. "Not every child, of course, imitates what he sees on television, but the results of recent research indicate that there are children whose aggressive and even hostile actions are stimulated by watching TV violence."

MICHIGAN WILL BE represented on the 10-member PTA commission by Elaine Steinkemeyer, Michigan PTA president.

Participation will include parents' monitoring and evaluating the TV programs watched by their children; submission of their findings to their local unit presidents, who, in turn, will furnish consensus reports to the NPTA; and a national campaign of letter writ-

ing and personal visits to local TV stations, the networks, sponsors of violent TV shows, the Federal Communications Commission and legislators. If these actions don't bring results, local stations may have their licenses challenged and formal complaints may be lodged with the FCC, the PTA said. "We're not interested in placing all the responsibility on the doorsteps of the networks, nor in censoring TV programs," says Mrs. Kimmel. "What we are trying to do is to make both parents and the decision-makers in the communications industry aware of their mutual responsibility for reducing TV violence and improving the overall quality of programming."

"Through this project, we're hoping to increase parents' awareness of the negative effects of TV violence on children; urge them to take more responsibility for supervising their youngsters' TV viewing; and motivate them to make their views known to the appropriate individuals and organizations."

We also feel that the networks, local stations and advertisers should respond to public opinion and the public interest by aggressively and voluntarily pursuing ways to reduce TV violence.

Individuals interested in testifying at the Chicago hearings should contact Mrs. Mary Leon, 2543 N. Kimball Ave., Chicago 60647. Persons should include their name, address, telephone number, occupation and the time of day they would be available to testify.

Persons unable to testify in person can submit written testimony.

Milliken vetoes comp fund bill

One suburban Democrat crossed party lines as the Michigan House of Representatives passed, 58 to 45, a bill to require employers to pay the cost of administering the workers' compensation fund.

Gov. William G. Milliken subsequently vetoed the measure, SB 1253, saying he would accept nothing less than comprehensive reform of the state's workers' compensation system.

Rep. Thomas Brown (D-Westland) was one of seven Democrats (the others were from outside) who joined Republicans in a vain attempt to halt the labor-supported bill last Dec. 9. BACKING IT were Democratic Reps. John Bennett of Redford, Joe Forbes of Oak Park, William Keith of Garden City, John Markes of Livonia, and Sal Rocca of Madison Heights.

Opposed were Brown and Republi-

can Reps. W.V. Brotherton of Farmington, James Defenbaugh of Bloomfield, Richard Fessler of Union Lake, Robert Geake of Northville, Ruth McNamee of Birmingham and Roy Smith of Ypsilanti.

The senate had passed it in June. THE BILL WOULD have levied a fee on insurance companies writing workers' compensation policies. The levy would equal two per cent of the total benefits paid out by the insurance company in the previous year.

The additional funds would have been used to increase the staff of the workers' compensation bureau and reduce a two-year backlog of cases. At present, the bureau is operated from the state general fund. Workers' compensation has been the subject of a year-long debate which will continue into the 1977 session of the legislature.

Rep. McNamee lists expenses

State Rep. Ruth McNamee outspent her opponents in winning re-election in the 63rd House District. Mrs. McNamee (R-Birmingham) spent \$1,286. Robert Anderlie, the Democratic candidate from Troy, spent \$318. Betty Nemer, the Libertarian candidate from Troy, spent \$40. James Gordon Lott, American Independent Party candidate, reported no campaign expenses.

Mrs. McNamee reported \$2,107 in contributions; Anderlie reported \$318.

Mrs. McNamee reported five contributions of at least \$100. The donors were: William A. McNamee of Birmingham, Warren S. Booth of Birmingham, John M. Sanders, Real Estate Political Action Committee and Construction Industry Management Political Action Committee.

Anderlie reported only one contribution over \$100, from the United Auto Workers Region 1B in Madison Heights—\$300.

Ms. Nemer and Lott, reported no campaign contributions.

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