

# WHERE WERE THE PARENTS ?

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## Editorial Note:

*On Friday afternoon, November 17, 1967, violence erupted at a demonstration by students outside of the Philadelphia [Pennsylvania] Board of Education building while representatives of the students were inside conferring with the Superintendent of Schools, Dr Mark Shedd, on desired improvements in the school curriculum.*

*There were 22 injuries and 57 arrests in the severe police - student confrontation. Accusations were hurled from both sides as to who started the bloody mess. About the only thing agreed on was that a sudden rain and hail storm did as much as anything else to bring a halt to the melee.*

*The following article was written in commentary on that event. It is reprinted courtesy of the ICA Eight Cities Network.*

Do certain police officials believe that brutality is the ONLY way to enforce the law? Did the police handle BLACK school children in a DIFFERENT way than they did the WHITES of Kensington (who were OPPOSING the State and City Fair Housing Laws)? Was last week's incident a case of "different strokes for different folks"?

A "yes" answer to any one of

those questions means that a certain person who just can't seem to handle Negro demonstrations without bloodshed should either quit his job (or be removed from it) in the interest of peace and public safety. Now let's get down to the "nitty-gritty"!

Where were the parents? That's right. WHERE WERE THE PARENTS when police night sticks were pounding the heads of their children? What were they doing on that bloody Friday? What were they doing during all the years of neglect while the school system of Philadelphia collapsed into institutions of mass ignorance? What were they doing while their kids were growing up, going to school and learning nothing about themselves, (and next to nothing about anything else)?

What was going on when kids by the thousands "left their books in school" - that is if they had any books at all !?! (If YOU are one of the FEW parents who took an ACTIVE interest in the education of your child, and regularly made sure that your kid was getting the best schooling possible, read on. But, please pass this article on to a friend when you finish reading it.) When 5,000 students picketed the Board of Education, why weren't at

least 2,500 parents there with them? (If they were there, do you honestly believe that the same thing would have happened?) Would kids "get out of hand" with that many parents there? Would the Police "get out of hand" with that many VOTERS there? (Remember Negroes are largely responsible for the re-election of the Mayor who hired - and has the power to fire - the Police Commissioner.)

The time is long overdue when first things should be put first! The present CONFUSION is only the RESULT of years of doing nothing, while buying what we want and begging for the things that we need. What is more important, Christmas shopping or your kid's education? What counts the most, a party or a parent - teachers meeting? What does the most good, new and needed school books or new football uniforms?

There is no "easy way" out of the present mess. The name calling will not solve the problems (although it may create a few more). There are no magic words or slogans that will solve the massive problems facing us today. We must decide whether we are going to find the CAUSES of the problems and deal with them, or merely "treat" the EFFECTS with a "quick remedy" only to have the same problems break out again. Do you take an aspirin for Cancer, or do you remove the Cancer?

What are YOU going to do?

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