

## PSYCHIATRY

# Violence Less Rampant

Although violence seems to be more prevalent today because of more accurate statistics and better communications, the world may be a kinder place to live in than before.

► TODAY'S BETTER communications and more accurate statistics have violence appear rampant in the world—but it only seems that way.

This is the opinion of Dr. Jack R. Ewalt of Harvard University, president of the American Psychiatric Association, which is meeting in Los Angeles.

"The tragic death of President Kennedy and the 'frontier justice' disposition of Mr. Oswald led to many outcries against the aggression now prevalent in the world," said Dr. Ewalt. "But the world may be a kinder place than it was formerly."

He cited these facts:

1. The murder rate in the United States has decreased in the last 10 years.
2. Lynchings are becoming rare.
3. Rare also are deaths from labor troubles.
4. The mass killings carried on by Hitler, Stalin and their cohorts no longer exist.
5. One hundred years ago the American people were involved in a bloody struggle over the race issue.

"We are working on the problems that remain," Dr. Ewalt said. "I doubt that we have seen the last of war, but the U-2 incident and the Cuban crisis each demonstrated that some mechanisms are being developed for achievement of a more sensible solution than war for real or imagined insults to national pride."

Dr. Ewalt went on to say that the attack on President Kennedy has called attention to a serious problem that confronts all public officials. It is the threat or act by people who have "tenuous control" over their aggressive urges.

"Their tendency seems to be to associate themselves with extreme causes of a patriotic or revolutionary nature," Dr. Ewalt said. "Many express their feelings in vulgar, defamatory or threatening letters. Many take authoritarian positions regarding public issues."

"Psychiatric examination sometimes reveals that these people are not 'mentally ill.' They are apparently not schizophrenic or manic-depressive or paranoid. But in a social sense they are more deviant than many an ambulatory schizophrenic. Many of them are offenders against society's laws and customs."

Dr. Ewalt said he believes it is "irresponsible" for psychiatrists to ignore such people by saying that they are not mentally ill. That merely transfers the problem without contributing to its solution.

What then would he ask psychiatrists to do? This is what he told the 3,000 members of the association:

"We are obligated as citizens and professionals to offer as much aid and guidance as we can. We can surely provide diagnostic services to courts and investigative agencies.

We can offer treatment to those offenders or potential offenders who are ill and want treatment."

Dr. Ewalt also urged his fellow psychiatrists to work with jurists, law enforcement agencies and sociologists in getting at the underlying causes of crime on a local and a world-wide basis.

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## Drug for Bedwetters

► THE ANSWER to bedwetting, a big problem for 16% of all children between the ages of three and 15, may be a drug used to treat depression.

The drug, imipramine, has been evaluated by Drs. Alvin F. Poussaint and Keith S. Ditman of the University of California, Los Angeles, neuropsychiatric institute, who reported the results to the American Psychiatric Association meeting in Los Angeles.

Forty-seven patients aged 5 to 16 years participated in the study. Eleven of the group (24%) became completely dry following drug treatment and remained dry after the drug was withdrawn gradually.

Nine (19%) still on the drug are completely dry and another 20 (42%), also continuing drug treatment, have shown con-



Honeywell

**COCKROACH STUDY** — A tiny thermocouple, one-third the thickness of human hair, developed by Honeywell, is used by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to study cockroach breeding habits. Here, Robert White, Honeywell engineer, measures the internal temperature of a giant South American cockroach.

siderable improvement. Seven (15%) failed to respond to the drug.

The fact that a number of patients remained dry after discontinuance of the drug suggests that it might be effective in "training" bedwetters to be dry, the UCLA researchers said.

They speculated that the drug may work in two ways on individuals:

1. A chemical action on muscle tone may result in an increase in bladder capacity. Some studies have suggested that bedwetters tend to have smaller than normal bladders.
2. The drug may also act on mechanisms that control arousal from sleep.

Other studies have shown that bedwetters are deep sleepers and difficult to arouse. Some children in the UCLA study responded to drug treatment by awakening in the night and going to the bathroom, which they had not done before. As the drug may sometimes have undesirable side effects, it should be used only under medical supervision.

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## Healthier Attitudes Seen

► A NEW, healthier climate of public and professional attitudes toward the mentally ill is forming in the United States.

The credit belongs largely to the late President John F. Kennedy, said Dr. Robert H. Felix, director of the National Institute of Mental Health, Bethesda, Md.

Speaking before 3,000 members of the American Psychiatric Association meeting in Los Angeles, Dr. Felix said "one of the most dynamic revolutions in the history of mental health" springs from the "bold new approach" expressed in President Kennedy's Mental Health Message to Congress last year.

The resulting Community Mental Health Centers Act will:

1. Provide one-third to two-thirds of the funds for constructing community mental health centers.
2. Help improve therapeutic programs in state hospitals.
3. Give "in-service" training to hospital aids.
4. Support comprehensive mental health planning by the states.

Dr. Felix said the Federal role is to assist and to advise, not to exert control over the states and communities in treating mental illnesses.

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## BIOTECHNOLOGY

### Pocket-Sized X-Ray Could Detect Fractures

► AN X-RAY UNIT has been built that will fit in your pocket and needs no power source. It has many applications including detection of bone fractures and flaws in missile and airplane parts.

The device uses a pellet of radioactive promethium-147 for an X-ray source, instead of an electron gun. Dr. Leonard Rieffel of ITT Research Institute, Chicago, Ill., is the inventor of the new technique.

When a shutter is opened, the rays come out in a column, without stray radiation.

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