

## PSYCHIATRY

# Crime Needs Psychiatry

Community mental health centers could treat criminals as an alternative to prison isolation, says a judge who thinks mental treatment could reduce crime—By Edith Lederer

► THE REAL HOPE for stemming crime lies in finding the basic causes of disturbed behavior, David L. Bazelon, Chief Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals, District of Columbia Circuit, told a conference for leaders in state mental health planning.

"Unless we learn to understand the offender, find out why he committed his crime and remove the causes, the factors which produced him will produce more offenders like him and will produce them faster than we can stuff them into human warehouses," Judge Bazelon said.

Community mental health centers could be an answer, Judge Bazelon said, for the information they provide will not only help the individual, but "help the community to understand the individual."

This approach offers greater hope for reducing crime than increasing the police forces.

However, Judge Bazelon pointed out to the meeting in Washington, D. C., sponsored by the American Psychiatric Association, that although crime is one manifestation of failure and perhaps not the worst, crim-

inal law often avoids inquiring into why an individual's expectations have been disappointed.

Even though criminal offenders and the mentally ill have traditionally received the same "isolation" treatment from the community in large understaffed institutions, "there is more recognition of the need to change methods of treatment for the mentally disabled than for those convicted of crime," he said.

Besides offering an alternative to hospital commitment, Judge Bazelon believes that these centers could offer an alternative to prison commitment.

Although a hard core of offenders and mentally disturbed people require isolated care, most offenders end up in prison "simply because there is no alternative."

The variety of service offered by community mental health centers—day care, night care and after care—could help offenders resolve their problems so that eventually they could "make it" on the outside.

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mon to the great variety of rules and conventions by which men have succeeded in communicating with each other," reported the *Technology Review* 67:5, 1965. The effort resulted in part from difficulties encountered in mechanical translation of languages. Such discoveries, it is believed, could help both students of the human brain and the builders of modern mechanisms.

Prof. Matthews recently completed a similar study of the syntax of Hidatsa, another Indian language, with National Science Foundation support.

Catawba especially intrigues the linguists because it closely resembles the predecessor of the many Siouan languages that were spoken long ago by Indians on the Great Plains. Catawba was once the language of Indians who lived in the Carolinas, but until recently it was believed to be dead.

Prof. Matthews discovered that Red Thunder Cloud could speak Catawba when they met at a powwow in Grafton, Mass. Red Thunder Cloud was born in Rhode Island and now lives in New York. He has devoted many years to studying Indian lore. With his wife and two sons, he recorded "A Child's Introduction to the American Indian," the first high-fidelity, long-playing album of its kind.

"Catawba," the *Technology Review* says, "differs from modern European languages in numerous ways; it has words for example, that take the place of punctuation marks, and its vocabulary is more indicative of ancient affairs than of modern life."

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# Be 'Brothers' Keepers'

► MEMBERS of every community must learn to be their "brothers' keepers" when their brothers show signs of mental illness, Gov. Otto Kerner of Illinois told a conference for leaders in state mental health planning.

"The real heart of mental illness and mental retardation is to stop sending people away to remote buildings and to keep them in the community," the Governor said.

The concept of "community mental health" has already begun a silent revolution in the distribution of care, Governor Kerner added.

About two years ago, Congress appropriated more than \$8 million in matching funds for the states to start planning what the late President Kennedy called "a wholly new approach" to mental illness in the United States.

With a flexible and creative program, local and state facilities can be effectively coordinated, the manpower shortage problem can be solved and the victim of mental illness can be returned to resume a useful life in his community, the Governor emphasized.

Governor Kerner spoke before a conference of the American Psychiatric Association in Washington, D.C.

In another report to this conference, Gov. John A. Volpe of Massachusetts outlined his

state's program of mental health centers which began before the Federal Government entered the field.

The six centers currently planned for the state will have beds for diagnosis, better services for disturbed children, day-care and emergency treatment programs.

"It is our aim to equip all of our present state hospitals as centers to the end that these centers may be used for the care of all disturbed people from children to the elderly," Governor Volpe said.

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## LINGUISTICS

## Indian Singer Helps In Catawba Study

► RED THUNDER CLOUD is helping linguists at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology seek out basic communication rules.

Red Thunder Cloud is a professional Indian singer and dancer, who learned an Indian language called Catawba from his grandfather. He and Prof. G. Hubert Matthews are recording the syntax of Catawba in the MIT Research Laboratory of Electronics.

This is being done as part of an effort "to discover whatever aspects may be com-



Geigy Dyestuffs

**COLOR COORDINATOR**—Color matching for textile industry can now be accomplished by a computer that can also calculate the precise amounts of dyestuffs needed to produce an exact shade requested by a designer. Chemist Robert St. John uses the computer on a cloth sample to break down mathematically the shade into its components at Geigy Dyestuffs, a division of the Geigy Chemical Corporation, Ardsley, N.Y.