

is now spending close to \$90,000,000 each year to combat juvenile delinquency. Delinquency rate for the city in 1951 was 20.1 per 1,000 youths aged seven to 20 years. In 1960 the figure more than doubled to 42.4.

To cope with the situation of increasing delinquency, President Kennedy created on May 11, 1961, the President's Committee on Juvenile Delinquency and Youth Crime.

On Sept. 22, 1961, Congress approved the Juvenile Delinquency and Youth Offenses Control Act, authorizing \$30,000,000 for combating delinquency over a three-year period. The money will be administered by the Secretary of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare in consultation with the Attorney General and the Secretary of Labor who together comprise the President's Committee.

About half of the money will be used to support anti-delinquency demonstration projects, the other half for training personnel in the youth field.

The first all-out demonstration grant of \$2,100,000 for a three-year period (\$700,000 a year) has just been awarded to New York City. The project will be carried out in an area of Manhattan's Lower East Side with a population of about 100,000. The grant was given on the basis of a study of this area made by Mobilization For Youth, Inc., a non-profit corporation composed of representatives of agencies and institutions on the Lower East Side and persons recommended by the New York School of Social Work at Columbia University.

Special Assistant to Attorney General Robert Kennedy, David Hackett, told SCIENCE SERVICE that this project will receive an additional \$10,000,000 from the City of New York, the National Institute of Mental Health and private foundations.

The funds will make it possible to carry out the scheduled program attacking all sources of delinquency and youth problems. Mr. Hackett believes that never has a project of this scope been undertaken.

Investigate Contributing Factors

The factors contributing to delinquency to be investigated include family disintegration, slum housing, racial discrimination, lack of health and recreational facilities, failure in school and school dropouts, and youth unemployment. Such a program to be considered successful must be transferable to other areas and must have a built-in method for evaluation to measure its effect.

The program planned for New York includes an Urban Youth Service Corps, which will provide paid employment for several hundred unemployed out-of-school young people. Neighborhood conservation projects, manufacturing of toys, refurbishing furniture for low income residents, employment as aides to public and non-profit private institutions—such as housekeeping aides and assistants to youth groups—will be some of the jobs under the Corps.

The value of the program will be the training and upgrading of youngsters who presently are virtually unemployable. When a young person has completed the program, special attention will be given to helping him find a permanent position or aid in his further training.

Another aid to the education of slum youth is a special teacher visitation program in which teachers will visit the homes of their pupils as part of a course to gain better understanding of the pupil and his circumstances. A special laboratory school will attempt to improve the language arts instruction as part of overcoming the barriers facing the slum child in the slum school. A Homework Helper program, whereby low-income high school students with good grades can be hired to tutor students who are failing academically, will help the better students from becoming drop-outs.

To help young narcotics addicts, a program including detoxification, psychological treatment with access to vocational guidance, job training and placement will be undertaken.

"Coffee Shops" for Delinquents

A unique part of the New York program will be the establishment of three "coffee shops" where delinquent and near-delinquent youngsters can drop in casually to listen to music, play chess and checkers or pursue other interests. Performances by professional entertainers or neighborhood talent will be planned frequently to reduce operating costs.

As the coffee shops become accepted their services and purposes will expand to include a referral center with a professional staff to offer vocational, educational, medical and psychiatric guidance for troubled youths.

Two other interesting projects of the Lower East Side program are the Pre-adolescent Project and the Adventure Corps, which will sponsor healthy activities such as athletics, camping, marching bands, music and such cultural and educational activities as museum trips and workshops. Planning grants amounting to about \$800,000 have been awarded this spring to Los Angeles, Houston, Cleveland and Philadelphia. Eventually, five or six programs similar to that in New York will be supported.

• Science News Letter, 81:362 June 9, 1962

ASTRONOMY

Kitt Peak Telescope Named for Dr. McMath

► THE WORLD'S largest solar telescope, located at Kitt Peak National Observatory near Tucson, Ariz., has been named for Dr. Robert R. McMath, in memory of the man whose scientific dream it represents.

The giant instrument, which has a focal length of 300 feet, will form an image of the sun 34 inches in diameter. The late Dr. McMath was a professor of astronomy at the University of Michigan and former board chairman of the Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy, Inc., which operates the new national observatory for the National Science Foundation.

The McMath solar telescope, located 40 miles southwest of Tucson, will permit studies of the sun in greater detail than has ever been possible. It will form a solar image larger and more brilliant than attainable with any other instrument.

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