

The Deadly Neglect of The Male Child (Part V)

(Pan African Press)

The teachers, the parents, the educational system and our entire society is failing the Negro male child, said Mrs. Veronica Wade, director of a South Side branch of the Chicago Urban Progress Center.

"THE REASON for the gangs, the contempt for law and order, the disrespect for their elders and the resulting lack of genuine masculinity among male youths, for the most part, can be traced directly to a lack of discipline and guidance—on the part of teachers, parents and society as a whole," Mrs. Wade continued during an interview in her office with a MUHAMMAD SPEAKS reporter.

She said the teachers seem to be afraid of male youths and virtually let them get away with murder in the classroom. As a result, the educational system does not demand nearly enough of them, she added, nor do the boys have inspiration to vent their creativity.

THE URBAN Progress Center is sponsored by the War on Poverty. The employees program activities for youths, which includes various sports functions, dances, trips, picnics, etc., and educational programs.

Mrs. Wade holds a degree in education. She studied two years at De Paul University and the last two years at New York University. She is married and has one daughter.

THREE teenage girls entered the office during the interview and asked Mrs. Wade if there was anything she wanted them to do. She told them to write an essay on their trip to a concert at Ravinia Park, which is on the outskirts of Chicago. Each of the girls frowned agonizingly, but dutifully walked over to an unoccupied desk and, after some barely audible groans started writing.

"These are fine girls," Mrs. Wade said in a soft tone. "But like the boys, they

need pushing sometimes. Of course we're handicapped in our work with teenagers because our resources are too sparse and because we get them too late. If youths are not disciplined between the ages of 2 and 13, it's nearly always too late."

She said there is a solution to the problem of the neglected child, but there are many other problems to solve before one can even approach the main problem.

"Economics play a part," she said, "but I don't think it's all economic. There always have been poor people, but we haven't always had the multiplicity and magnitude of problems with teenagers which we have today."

"Overpopulation is a problem which we haven't always had to the degree we have today. Negro communities now often have 2,000 persons to a square block in the South and West Side ghettos; the white neighborhoods sometimes only have 100 or fewer in a square block. With overpopulation, there's always an overflow of garbage, rats and roaches. If we could eliminate ghettos, it would help, but that's not the complete solution."

"EMPLOYMENT discrimination is a big factor. If Negro youths could get jobs during summer vacations and when they finish high school and college, this would be a big help. Jobs often provide discipline which can't be found elsewhere."

"But these are large and very difficult problems," Mrs. Wade added. "I think the first step to the solution, if I had my way, would be to have all male teachers from kindergarten through the fourth grade."

"Also, the teachers should have the right to spank pupils when they misbehave. Almost every country in the world allows teachers to administer corporal punishment, except the United States."

She said it is time people faced up to the fact that sex-

Children: Future of a Mighty Nation



WHEN NEGRO'S discontent with his assigned place in the American plan boiled over into a riot on Chicago's West Side, the mayor hastily authorized the installation of temporary swimming pools in the ghetto for black

children, with the promise that permanent pools will be built and serviced. This was one of several minor concessions made by the city to head off further rioting.



TOUCHED BY the crowd of friendly black children from the ghetto of New Orleans who greeted him when he arrived in the Louisiana city, Vice President Hubert Humphrey later told a conference that he, too, might "lead a mighty good revolt" if he and his family

had to endure the rigors of a city ghetto. The statement made headlines and in the face of the inevitable repercussions, Mr. Humphrey backed away a bit to "explain" what he really meant.



YOUNG BLACK children of St. Louis' "Operation Champ" visited Jeep, the giraffe, at his home in the zoo to feed the animal leaves.

start" project to aid disadvantaged children trapped in the dehumanizing influence of big-city ghettos.

A Woman's View: Deadly Neglect Of the Male

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ual conflicts are the cause of a great deal of frustration among both boys and girls. She pointed out that many teenagers have been exposed to sex, but not in a way which enables them to learn what it is really all about. They're sexually confused. She added.

"A factor which contributes to the overall turmoil is that most parents tell their daughters nothing about sex except to 'keep their dresses down.' For 17 years, all the girl hears from her mother is to keep her dress down. How do you think she'll fare on her wedding night? Of course, she's frigid.

"The same is true of boys who have been told that sex is dirty and nasty. At the same time, he's convinced by friends on the street that to be a man, he has to engage in sexual activity. He tries, with some 'loose' girl, and finds himself impotent, partly because of psychological reasons, partly because he is simply too young. Can you imagine what a blow to a young boy's pride this is—to find himself unable to function, and probably ridiculed by the girl who gave him the unfortunate opportunity.

"Such a young man is going to really have to go to some lengths to prove to himself and the world that he is a man. From these ranks, and others, come the teenage fighters, or 'gang-bangers,' as they're called these days."

MRS. WADE asserted that the school system should incorporate a system of comprehensive sex education in the elementary schools, starting with the first grade.

"Young children know something is fishy about the stories they hear," she continued. "They see a woman with her dress poked out and ask why. To tell this child that the woman swallowed a watermelon seed — which is often done — is a sin and a shame."

Mrs. Wade said schools should get pictures of an infant's development in the womb from the moment of conception until the day of birth, such as the illustrations found in many museums.

"If children are properly taught, they wouldn't be so confused about their sexual urges. By the age of 13 or 14 they should know all medical science can teach them about reproduction, except perhaps genetics and other very involved aspects.

"I honestly believe half the youths of today are neurotic and that much of this stems from confusion about sex.

"**THE** curriculum used in most schools is dull and downright asinine. Children should be taught about space

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BREAKING UP street fights between youngsters is only one of many functions of Mrs. Veronica Wade, director of a South Side Urban Progress Center in Chicago. These

youths, Fredrick McCutcheon, 13, and Donald Reed, 11, were engaged in an altercation when Mrs. Wade stepped in. She said their problem was easily resolved.



HOLDING CONFERENCE with influential youths in her area, Mrs. Veronica Wade (second from r.) discusses current teen-age problems with (l. to r.) Donald Jackson, 11; (Mrs. Wade); Barbara Jones, 17; Craig Jackson, 14; and Sandra Reed, 17. Mrs. Wade is director of a South Side Urban

Progress Center in Chicago, and considered one of the most influential women with teen-age gangs in the Chicago area. She said her formula for handling youths is "firm discipline with sympathetic love."

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TRIPOLI — Libya's Petroleum Minister, Mr. Ka'bazi, said that a committee was being set up to draft the Constitution of Libyan National Petroleum Corporation to operate at local and international levels.

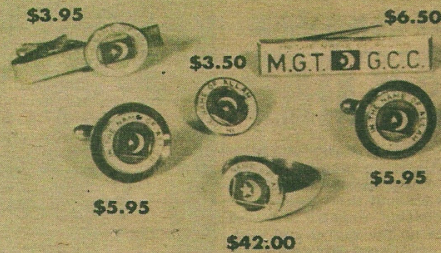
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