

## Beating crime with more education

22 Oct 73

The direct relationship between violent crime and a lack of education has been proven by the newly-published interim progress report of the Government's Sub-Committee on the Social Causes of Crime.

The report shows that during each of the past five years, 98 to 99 per cent of the violent crimes committed by young people under 21 years of age have been committed by those who have not had a full secondary school education.

To further support the relationship, the report shows that the majority of the offenders are those who have had only a primary education (78 to 79 per cent of the total violent crimes committed by those under 21 each year from 1968 to 1972).

It is now clearer than ever before that the Government must provide a full secondary education to all as soon as possible.

A method for providing three years of full-day secondary education for all by 1976 is described in the Education Action Group's recently-published four-month study on "Bi-sessionalism and the Alternatives."

The interim progress report states in its conclusions and recommendations: "Children of school-age not attending school were more open to temptation to commit crime, particularly those within the age group between 12 and 14 who fail to

proceed to secondary schools. These children are debarred from working in factories under existing labour legislation and their leisure renders them more susceptible to criminal influence."

The report also points out the danger of increasing the number of secondary school seats by resorting to bi-sessionalism, a danger that Education Action Group expands on in its four-month study.

The interim progress report, in addition, refers to the lack of trained teachers and the over-emphasis on book-knowledge and examinations, problems about which the Education Action Group is also critical.

If the Government is serious about its efforts to combat violent crime, it must now take immediate steps toward making six years of free secondary school available to all children.

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