leS. to the NEWS

by PHYLLIS SCHLAFLY

Box 618, Alton, Illinois 62002
Phone: 618-462-5415

RELEASE: June 11

1!16VIE VIOLENCE

A real leader is a person who recognizes a problem, diagnoses the situation, and takes affirmative action to remedy it, even when it may be unprecedented or unpopular. Chicago's Mayor Richard Daley has given us a good demonstration *ot* leadership by trying to do something about a major cause of the tremendous recent increase in teenage crime.

His remedy comes to grips with the fact **that** violence in the movies is to the urban concentration of teenagers, minorities and unemployed what a lighted cigarette is to a parched forest. Just as the safety of the people allows us to prohibit a smoker from tossing bis lighted cigarette butt out the car window, the safety of city dwellers requires that we stop the movie violence which panders to impressionable teenagers with sadism, senseless brutality, and unconscionable cruelty.

What Mayor Daley did was to persuade the Chicago City Council to pass an ordinance by a vote of 45 to 2 prohibiting the admission of anyone under age 18 to ,.movies which are obscene or extremely violent, including such acts as "cuttings, stabbings, floggings, eye gouging, brutal kicking, and dismemberment."

The City Council heard evidence that the average teenager in Chicago sees 11,000 murders on television before he is 18. This conditioning to brutality is then inflamed by gory violence in the movies, with blood oozing in living color.

Alderman Adeline P. Keane pinpointed the issue clearly when, in urging passage of the ordinance, she sai«;I: "Kids are mimics, **alll**

(more)

and they mimic whatever they see ... when they see this violence, they are liable to act it out.

:i a:rticularly off'ensive are the movies of excessive violence which cater especially to the "blacks and are called "black exploitation 11 f .tlrns. sixth grade teacher wno testified before the City Council called t.bm1 nblaxploi tat ion 11 films because they glorify criminals, npimps, hustlers, and uou:workers, ·f thereby giving wrong role-models to young blacks.

It is -to 'trn expected tJJat H;,:yo:r .Laley and the City Council will be conderimed by the pornography pro:"'.'i teers ·who want a broad interpre tation of *t.iH:1* First Amendm.ent; to over:ridt: 1r. very other moral ami eons ti tutional value. '1·he First !UDendment, however, does not and should uot include tbe right to obtice.nity, blasphemy, disturbing the fH 'H e, or incitement, to crime -- and that is exactly what these films do.

Om:, of the specious arguments made agairrnt the new Chicago ordinance is that we should **leave** it to the movie industry to police it,sel:f:'. At the annual Film Festival in Cannes, Prance, during the last Wf ek of }fay, films .:,f violence recoived all the prizes, despite *:* st:rong cm:idenmation from }JJH}rican playwright 'I1ennessee Williams, who was president of the jury. Williams condemned films which ;;take *!l* voluptuous pleasure in spill:i.ng blood and in lingering on terrfblo cruel ties as U1ough one were at a r onu.rn, oi.rcus•" He said that '.•watching violence or;; the screen is a lirutalizing experience for the spectator.n

The film selected for the top trophy at the Cannes 1""ilm Festival was 1nraxi J)river. 11 Last month a Chicago youth saw this very movie, tmd then went out and shot up a Northwest Side convent.

The same rights that permit us to restrict teenage drinking, drug use, driving, and marriage permit us to prohillit movies w'tlicb incite teenagers to criminal violence. Mayor Daley's courageous action should be imitated in other big citi.es with the problem of escalating teenage crime.

(end)