

Gov. Scott Tackles Child Abuse Problem

Child abuse is prevalent in every North Carolina county and Gov. Bob Scott hopes to be able to do something about it.

After Gov. Scott cited the problem, I contacted Judy Bowers, acting supervisor of Protective Services for State Social Services.

"On some days," Miss Bowers said, "this department gets as many as 20 reports of child abuse or child neglect. We're getting more such cases reported now than ever before."

Gov. Scott says in the past eight months in North Carolina, parental abuse has killed 23 children and injured 356 others.

The North Carolina legislature passed a law last July that makes it mandatory for citizens to report suspected cases of child neglect or child abuse to their county social services office.

"Before last July it was a voluntary thing," Miss Bowers said, "but now people are required by law to report such cases and we have many such reports coming in."

Since the law went on the books, the State Social Services offices has received reports of mistreatment of children in 89 of North Carolina's 100 counties.

"I would say from that statistic that we aren't getting 100 per cent compliance with the new law," Miss Bowers said, "because we know that child abuse and child neglect is happening in every county in this state. But we are getting many, many more referrals because of the law."

Just as child abuse is not limited to any one section of the State, it's also not limited to any one section of society.

"We have child abuse and child neglect in lower income families," Miss Bowers said, "but we also have cases in middle and upper incomes. The cases occur in white and black families."

Child abuse involves the child beaten severely. Child neglect covers a child not being fed or clothed adequately, not given proper medical attention, educational opportunities, etc.

What does the State hope to do to reduce the number of child abuse cases?

"First," Miss Bowers tells me, "we must get the story told to the people of this State. They need to understand that the new law requires them to report cases of child abuse or child neglect to their county social services office. The law no longer allows them to turn their head and say it's none of their business."

Miss Bowers says a trend seems to indicate that many pre-school children are victims of child abuse or child neglect.

"If these cases aren't corrected soon," Miss Bowers says, "the repercussions might be felt for a lifetime. We need to learn about these cases as quickly as possible and then get with the families and stay with them until the situation is corrected."

Miss Bowers says she is highly pleased that Gov. Scott has become so involved in taking the problem of child abuse to the public.

"Our law on child abuse is a good one," she says, "and when the public fully understands it, I think we'll begin to make more progress."

Gov. Scott has called a statewide conference on April 17 and 18 to deal with the problem. The Governor will make the keynote address and a noted expert in the field, Dr. David Gill of Brandies University, will be a featured speaker at the conference.

Miss Bowers says: "What we are doing is attempting to tell the story of child abuse and child neglect. The more people wanting to help, the better our chances of solving a very serious problem."

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Cronin Names Best Players Among Those He Saw In A.I.

By Cliff Morgan

Sarasota, Fla. -- American League President Joe Cronin is a league official who knows the game from the bottom up, plus the administrative side. He was one of the great American League shortstops not too many years ago, a pennant winning manager for both Washington (1933) and Boston (1946) and thus knows most of the great American League players of the past forty years first-hand.

The writer asked him to name the best players he saw in action in his playing days in the Majors. Cronin was quick to say he couldn't name them all, but he singled out a few, saying maybe he saw more of them than other great players.

"Ted Williams, Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Charlie Gehringer and Joe DiMaggio were all-around great players," he said. Quizzed about Ty Cobb, Cronin explained that Cobb had played before his time.

"Cobb was the man who could disrupt an opposing team more than any other," he conceded. Then he recalled that Jimmy Foxx, "had as much ability as any-

one," adding: "but he was a nice, easy going fellow--perhaps too gentle." He spoke highly of Al Simmons, whom he rated one of the greatest hitters he had ever seen.

"We have all sorts of programs to help players

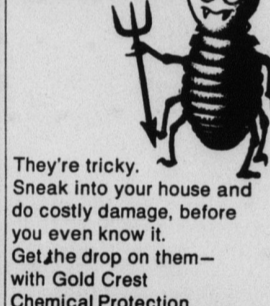
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