

Children's TV Still Violence-Laden

By Jack Anderson
and Les Whitten

Despite promises of reform, the TV networks still play up violence on children's shows.

Researchers studying the Saturday morning fare clocked an act of aggression "every 3½ minutes of actual program time on the commercial networks."

The worst offender was NBC, which produced 46 per cent of the violence. ABC had 30 per cent, CBS 24 per cent during the time checked.

The mayhem subsided only long enough for the networks to broadcast commercials that sought to stimulate a desire in the kiddies for candy, pastries and pop.

"Children completely lacked exposure to . . . the most natural and wholesome foods," the researchers declared in a confidential study. "There were no advertisements for fruits, vegetables or dairy products."

For years, we have crusaded against TV violence, which many sociologists believe has helped spread lawlessness in America. Again and again, we have shown how youngsters imitate the TV feats of Evel Knievel or Bonnie and Clyde.

More than a year ago, we cited a Federal Communications Commission report which urged reform of children's TV. The new chairman, Richard Wiley, assured us that reform was "on

the front burner."

But Wiley's promises, according to the confidential survey, haven't done much to curb TV violence.

The study was conducted by the Media Action Research Center, with church and foundation backing. The center found from a careful review of the TV offerings on two successive Saturday mornings that fistfights, robberies and other hostile acts were endemic on commercial television.

The shows with the most aggression, averaging a hostile act every minute on one Saturday, were "Bugs Bunny," "Pink Panther," "Speedy Buggy," and "Wheeler and the Chopper Bunch."

At the same time, the survey found "positive social behavior" on children's television. But the incidents of "sharing, helping and cooperation," although frequent enough, seldom offset the aggressive acts.

On the positive side, the report cites the TV show, "Devlin," as an "outstanding program." Throughout half the show, the researchers recorded "no aggression, 10.33 acts of altruism, and 9.67 acts of sympathy. . ."

Concludes the study: "It is possible to produce appealing nonviolent shows for children, given the desire and conscientiousness to do so."

Footnote: The National Asso-

ciation of Broadcasters, which is holding a children's program conference in Washington this week, defended the networks. A spokesman said the networks, particularly ABC, have made "great strides in calming down the Saturday (programs)." He also contended that children are able to distinguish between cartoons and real life. Children understand that cartoon figures are fantasies, he said.

Azores Alternative—If Portugal blocks the United States from using the Azores as a staging base to supply Israel, Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger has revealed, the United States is ready with "alternative possibilities."

He did not elaborate.

We can report, however, that the Air Force has spent the last six months training crews to refuel giant C-5 cargo planes in flight. The crews now are ready.

They have taken C-5s on test flights halfway around the world—fully loaded, nonstop, refueling in the air. Some of the flying behemoths were flown from the West Coast to Iran, others from the East Coast to the Philippines.

In case Israel should need emergency supplies, the C-5s would be sent right down the middle of the Mediterranean over international waters.

Martin's Seclusion—The embattled former U.S. ambassador to Saigon, Graham Martin, has

quietly dropped out of sight. He never made it back to the United States but stopped in Rome, where he has gone into seclusion.

During the last days of the Saigon regime, we published a succession of stories charging that he had misjudged the crisis and had mishandled the evacuation, but he has not come home to face the charges.

Members of Congress, eager to question Martín, have submitted inquiries to the State Department. These have been relayed to the U.S. Embassy in Rome, but he hasn't responded—at least not by official cable.

The State Department has made no effort to communicate with him, our sources say, because "there is no subject anybody wants to talk to him about."

Friendship File—The huge Chase, Manhattan Bank has been keeping a file since 1969 on relationships between its executives and government officials in a position to help the bank.

The bank sent executives confidential letters seeking personal information about their friendships with "officials" in the legislative and executive branches of government."

A spokesman explained that the purpose was to "get more people in the bank involved in public policy matters."

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