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Tribune photo
SCHOOL POLICE—Security patrolman Jim Edwards radios headquarters from Oakland schools' police car as Police Capt. Arthur E. Simpson, special patrolmen Joe Blount and Arthur C. Pokorny (from left) wait for answer.

## School Police to Guard Against Summer Vandals

Oakland school administrators are counting on their new "police department" to reduce vandalism at idle schools this summer.

Uniformed and armed security patrolmen, hired by the Board of Education, are helping the Oakland Police Department protect the taxpayers' multi-million dollar investment in schools.

They patrol school areas in radio-equipped cars, dispatched by Oakland police headquarters. Their job is to stop would-be burglars and vandals who break windows and deface buildings and to keep young-sters from dangerous play areas such as school roofs.

During the past five months the patrol has been on duty there have been seven break-ins at schools, or just over one a month. During 1955-56 there were 42 break-ins and in 1954-55 a total of 45, or about four a month for the two years.

If the same pattern holds for the summer, when about 40 per cent of the damage normally occurs, loss from burglary and malicious destruction should be reduced sharply, according to Arthur C. Pokorny, assistant business manager for the school system.

The first patrolmen were hired last fall. Until the end of January they attended the Oakland Police Department training school, worked with juvenile division officers and made a detailed study of every school in the city.

Patrols are concentrated at night and on weekends, with the special officers working closely with city police.

On one occasion school officer Jim Edwards caught three armed students in an attempted robbery of a citizen on a school grounds. He turned them over to police.

Later Edwards was attacked by two young thugs at one of the city's high schools. After he overpowered them and turned them over to police it was found both had long criminal records. Since then the special officers carry guns on the recommendation of Police Chief Wyman W. Vernon.

The school patrolmen also stopped one incipient fire and nipped two school burglaries in progress. Pokorny believes the regular patrol deters others who might otherwise try to break-in.

The school security patrol has freed city police from time-consuming, routine checks of school buildings and has the endorsement of police officials who encouraged its formation. Regular police still patrol school areas, but have more time for other duties.

How much the security patrol may save the taxpayers in dollars can't be determined yet, Pokorny said. "We believe there has already been a substantial saving. Later we will know approximately how much," he said.

## Mediocrity Stand In Schools Hit

OKLAHOMA CITY, June 19 —(U.P.)—The National Education Association was attacked here by a prominent scientist for preserving "mediocrity" in public schools.

The blast came at the International Symposium on Science, Industry and Education sponsored by the Oklahoma Frontiers of Science in conjunction with the semi-centennial exposition. An estimated 5,000 persons attended the all-day meetings and dinner.

The barrage against the NEA came from Dr. Vannevar Bush, chairman of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Corp. He pointed to a resolution passed by the NEA in New York last week calling for more study of differential in pay based on merit.

**SEES RUSSIAN LEAD**

"As long as we allow that thinking to persist we will have mediocrity in this country and Russia will be far ahead of us," Dr. Bush declared.

He added: "It is ridiculous to impose a rule that will guarantee poor teachers the same kind of money we pay to superior teaching talent."

Later a note passed to Dr. Bush from the audience reprimanded him for being "too rough" on the NEA. Dr. Bush fired back that he thought he was "unduly gentle."

Dr. Mervin J. Kelley, symposium chairman and president of Bell Telephone Laboratories, told the meeting the U.S. must spend more on basic research. He warned: "In Russia they already have in being a machine larger than we now have . . . for studying the nucleus of the atom."

**PROCESS STUDIED**

Dr. Guy Suits, vice president of General Electric Corp., said his company has been studying for more than a year the harnessing of hydrogen bomb process for the safe and inexpensive production of power. He said it will be at least 20 years, however, before a pilot plant is operative.

And an Oxford University official told the symposium members the entire world will be short of scientists for generations, for Henry Tizard, head of the Magdalen College of Oxford, said that in the past 20 years too few technicians had been trained to further the work of the high quality pure scientist.


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