PAT COSTA

So you've seen the movie oliver" and were horrified at the 19 Century English ways of mistreating a child as revealed by Charles Dickens.

You should have saved your horror. Indignation begins at home. Twentieth Centruy America knows how to take care of a child with the worst of them -particularly if the child is already floundering even a tiny

In the most personally frightening and appalling hour of television I have ever seen in the nearly 20 years I have had access to a set, NBC showed us what happens to some children in this country.

say the most appalling hour in 20 years advisedly. I had once thought there was nothing worse than watching shot up young men in Vietnam in living color. But at least theoretically they have guns with which to defend themselves. I once watched a program called "Hunger in America" and thought there could be little worse than to see the skeleton of an infant who had starved to death. I now know better.)

"This Child Is Marked X" was the title of the work produced by Martin Carr as an NBC White Paper on Juvenile Justice in this country.

Narrated by Edwin Newman the program pointed out that every year nearly a million children are fed into the court system, the detention facilities and the training schools to emerge, as hardened criminals.

From 50 to 70 per cent are children who are innocent. Their crimes are only classified that way because they are children. (Truancy, running away from brutal parents, attempting to get married under age etc.)



There are children who have committed serious crimes of murder, rape and armed robbery. Unfortunately both kinds often are imprisoned together.

Carr spoke with children who had been victims of the detention system in Chicago's Cook County Jail, in Indiana School for Boys and its female counterpart and in Texas.

Some institutions allowed cameras and interviewers. Some refused. The composite picture was ugly. Children had been sent to brutalizing detention centers on agreed judgments by parents with neither benefit of hearing or counsel for insignificant infractions. (One boy had tried to get married.)

Youngsters were locked in solitary confinement, shackled spread-eagled to beds for as long as seven days, beaten and kicked until senseless, received regular floggings, had their bare feet lashed with leather thongs and given intramuscular injections that were intended to pain them as a punishment measure.

Innocent youngsters were thrown in with prostitutes, murderers and homosexuals who forced them to submit. Some youngsters commit suicide. One hoy who had cut his wrists was among the interviewees.

To show what could be done with youngsters who need help the cameras went to Boulder, Colo., where a sensible, compassionate system has been initiated. Children are kept out of institutions through work done by volunteers and community assistance.

If a series of congressional investigations are not soon forthcoming over this White Paper, the shame for this coun-try will be unthinkable.

Interfaith Service Set For People Weary of War

An interfaith service for people weary of war" will be held at 8 this Sunday night, May 16, in Asbury First United Methodist Church, 1050 East

An invitation to the public speaks of "refreshment and the power to make peace" as "the things we seek by coming together.'

Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey will take part. Bishop Joseph L. Hogan participated in the planning, but he will be in Corning and Painted Post for confirmation rites Sunday.

Bishop Hogan was among the 15 signers of a statement worked out at a meeting April 25 in Temple B'rith Kodesh.

"The war continues," the statement begins. "Our leaders speak of withdrawal, but the death lists grow. Our economy falters under the burden of the war costs. The spirit of the nation is troubled.

"We who are concerned about the life of the spirit believe that we must come together in a mood of renewal and make our concern a public fact in this

Among the signers of this invitation-statement were Fathers James Lawlor and Joseph P. Brennan, Episcopal Bishop Robert G. Spears, Rabbi Herbert Bronstein and the Rev. Marvin Chandler.

Nazareth Fine Arts Day

Nazareth Academy is celebrating Fine Arts Day Friday, May 14. The climax of the day will be the annual Spring Concert at 8:15 p.m. in the school auditorium.

Five music organizations will be represented in the concert: a string ensemble, the band, the Perosian Choir, the glee club and the Choral Belles.

Students' drama and art pieces will be exhibited in the library, classrooms and corridors during the day. In the afternoon the drama students and.

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the music organizations will give an assembly program for the student body.

SCOUT AWARDS

The "Regina Coeli Award" was presented by Father John A. Murphy to Janice Prossick, Mureen Shannon, and Barbara Lieback at their Court of Awards night, May 9. They are junior scouts of Troop 249 of St. Lawrence parish. Scout leaders are Mrs. Marjorie Klingler and Mrs. Beatrice Prossick.



McQuald Hoofers

McQuaid parents are shown preparing "A Bit of Broadway" for presentation Sunday, May 16, in Mercy High School auditorium. Father William O'Malley S.J., and Sister Margaret Mary Ganley, SSJ., are the directors. Curtain time is 8 p.m. Tickets may be obtained through 473-1130.

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Wednesday, May 12, 1971

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Roast turkey, Ham and Chicken dinners \$2.85 from Mr. Mac's Pic-nic table. Char broiler flom-

ing steaks, lobster tails, seafood—banquets to 500. Daily 5 'til Midnight—Sun. 12:30 'til TO P.M. 315-789-1305 or 539-8044.

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