

SOCIETY

justice system to spawn a rapid rise in juvenile crime (which is declining nationwide). Many black youths unabashedly prefer crime to welfare, VFI reports. Young inner city blacks are 10 to 20 times more likely to be arrested for violent crimes; at the same time, fewer than 1 percent of those arrested actually go to prison.

Conventional government solutions will not work. Employers now consider education instead of race as the necessary "credential" for employment. The effect has been to bar black dropouts from many jobs. Unions have also restricted eligibility for apprenticeship. Insurance companies still penalize employers who hire the unskilled. Prison records handicap growing numbers of blacks.

VFI recommends revision of child labor laws that help to limit teenagers to poor jobs (as stock boys, messengers, mail clerks, and fast-food servers). The legal minimum wage must be lowered for teen-age workers. Insurance and tax rates must be made equitable. Only structural changes—and not the "same barren policies" of education, welfare reform, and periodic attempts at federal job creation—can save a new generation from the "vicious triangle" of joblessness, crime, and family breakdown.

IQ's Link to Juvenile Crime

"Intelligence and Delinquency: A Revisionist Review" by Travis Hirschi and Michael J. Hindelang, in *American Sociological Review* (Aug. 1977), 1722 N St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

For the past 50 years, academic criminologists have discounted evidence of a relationship between low IQ and delinquency; most textbooks, for example, either ignore the matter or question the correlation. Nevertheless, write Hirschi and Hindelang, sociologists at the State University of New York, the facts "strongly support" a relationship between IQ and criminal behavior.

According to the authors, virtually all recent research (conducted in locales as diverse as Philadelphia, London, and Davidson County, Tennessee) indicates a strong correlation between juvenile crime and low IQ, a link at least as strong as that with race or social class, both long recognized as important factors. However, the authors contend, the IQ factor is "threatening" to most criminologists, who consider emphasis on "individual differences" outmoded.

Early in the 20th century, they note, when criminology was dominated by physicians, a relationship between low IQ and delinquency was generally assumed. Then sociologists claimed criminology as a subfield. With this shift, Hirschi and Hindelang write, an "equivalent shift" in the underlying assumptions of criminological research was seen as necessary by many sociologists, who were already alarmed by the "moral" implications of IQ testing and by the growing interest in biological explanations of social behavior. Criminology's blind spot lies in its *a priori* assumptions, they believe, not in the evidence.