

To \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

## THE YOUTH SERVICE COMMITTEE

(Usually a Subcommittee of the Community Service Committee)

The youth service committee is composed of a chairman who is a member of the community service committee, and such other members as the needs of the local club may require.

The youth service committee devises and carries into effect plans to give assistance and counsel to young men and women (generally speaking, from 16 to 24 years of age), to develop them along the line which will best prepare them to become useful members of society, and also to help them subsequently to function in accordance with their preparation and capacity.

As a guide for the youth service committee, Rotary International publishes Pamphlet No. 16, "Youth Service by Rotary Clubs," with which each member of the committee should be familiar. A copy of this pamphlet should be found in the club secretary's office. He can get additional copies if desired from the secretariat.

Pamphlet No. 41, "Rural Youth," should be especially helpful to committees in rural areas.

Occupational guidance, training, and placement are important aspects of youth service. They are treated in several mimeographed papers which may be secured free from the secretariat.

The board of directors of Rotary International is of the opinion that it is desirable for Rotary clubs to convene conferences of youth and adult members of the community as a start in developing a youth service program. This method, known as a youth panel, has been used with great success by a number of Rotary clubs. File No. 698, which describes this activity and includes a diagram for the seating of participants and suggested questions for

the use of the leader may be secured from the secretariat.

### Youth Service—More Important Now

The crime wave that followed World War I was no accident! Rotary clubs, Rotarians and others interested in the welfare of youth should be on the lookout. The United States, Canada, Australia and other countries report increasing waves of juvenile delinquency, and from London comes the report that youth under 21 now constitute 48% of those arrested for lawbreaking.

That this situation is not peculiar to the twentieth century is proved by a clergyman who served during the Revolutionary War of the American Colonies when he wrote of the war's "impetus to social offenses"; and again, during the Napoleonic Wars 19th century commentators complained that in Old Bailey, London, the number of criminals condemned was much greater than before the wars.

The causes of these wartime crime waves—closing of schools, lack of proper supervision, general let-down in moral attitudes and loosening of family ties—can be checked by methods that are discussed in File No. 674.

Character building programs for youth are as vital to the nation's interests as are the more obvious war efforts of building guns and ships. The future welfare of the nation depends upon what we do now for our youth. "Crime prevention" should be a watchword of the times.

To assist youth effectively in wartime, Rotary clubs can cooperate with youth-serving agencies in directing the enthusiasm and energy of youth in assisting the war effort.