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**AN ANALYSIS OF THE RELATIONSHIP  
between  
VIOLENCE ON TELEVISION AND DELINQUENCY**

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**by  
Theodore Smigala  
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The study of delinquency is broad and complex; therefore, it was necessary to limit the scope of this thesis to one aspect of the problem. The main theme is an analysis of the relationship between violence on television and delinquency.

Chapter One defines delinquency and surveys some of the related factors which cause delinquency. Several variations of delinquency as a legal concept are noted including differences in legal definitions, types of offenses, and age differences.

Seldom, if ever, is a child inspired to deviant behavior by any one factor. In almost every case delinquency is a result of a combination of forces. There are, however, certain environmental factors that are associated with delinquency. These are grouped for examination into three main categories: (1) urban life and its effect upon delinquency, (2) the role of the family, (3) characteristics of American society conducive to delinquency.

The main theme of this thesis made it necessary to examine the most recent evidence on the relationship among violence, aggression, and delinquency. Studies and research made by some of the nation's outstanding authorities on crime and delinquency--Dr. Peter Lejins, Edwin H. Sutherland, William C. Kvarceus, Leonard Berkowitz and Albert Bandura--are cited. These studies indicated that exposure to live and filmed aggression and violence increases the possibility of the occurrence of aggressive behavior in children and also

tends to influence the shape and form aggression will take when children may be instigated on later occasions. This evidence disputes the belief in the catharsis effect which holds that there is a purgation of emotions from viewing violence and aggression. Research in this area is far from complete, but these studies have thrown new light on this problem. This research has stimulated further studies in an attempt to establish a scientific basis for more accurate judgments.

An analysis of the findings of the United States Senate Sub-Committee on the relationship of juvenile delinquency and television was also undertaken. This report made by a Senate committee headed by Thomas Dodd of Connecticut, was concerned, among other things, with the nature of violence and crime in television programming and its possible effects on delinquency. Carefully conducted monitoring studies from 1954 through 1964 are analyzed. These studies showed that there was a very substantial increase in the percentage of violent type programming through 1961. Since that time there has been no appreciable change.

The committee also attempted to determine the impact on youth of televised programs featuring crime and violence. Surveys were conducted on the number of children watching television. These surveys were concerned with the amount of time spent watching television, especially during prime time, when a high percentage of crime or violent programs appear. All of these factors, and data compiled in numerous studies

indicate that television must be considered influential in the development of attitudes, actions, and behavior of young children.

Finally a brief discussion of the Senate Committee recommendations for resolving the problems of television and violence was presented.

The study concludes that the complexities and magnitude of the causation of delinquency are great and that television seems to be a contributing factor. While much more research needs to be done there does seem to be means by which problems of juvenile delinquency as related to televised violence can be approached. Most important of all is the need for a continued public awareness of the problem.