

# American Teenagers Are Under Big Attack

American teenagers are being subjected to what is possibly the most devastating attack on a nation's youth in all history.

"In many cases, they have been made by well-known Americans, presumed experts, backed sometimes by statistics or polls difficult for the average American to challenge. And they have been given the widest possible circulation in newspapers and magazines, on radio and television," writes William Peters in the November Good Housekeeping.

In "How Many of These Things Are About Teenagers?" the author lists some of the attacks made on America's youth:

They cheat commonly in school and college . . . A majority are physically or mentally unfit . . . They are extremely materialistic . . . They invariably marry very young and expect parents to subsidize them . . . Sexual immorality is widespread a-

mong them . . . Few accept military service willingly.

"Perhaps the most frequently reiterated attack has been on the physical and mental fitness of the current generation of American youth. No less a personage than President John F. Kennedy, echoing a widely-circulated complaint, said in December, 1961, that "To get two men today, the United States Army must call seven men. Of the five rejected, three are turned down for physical reasons and two for mental disabilities . . . And the rejection rate is increasing each year."

"Where President Kennedy got his figures is a mystery neither the Selective Service System nor the Office of the Surgeon General of the Army, the two agencies responsible for compiling such statistics can explain. But that they give a grossly false impression of the physical and mental condition of American youth is easily demonstrable," writes the author.

A thesis, which appeared in 1957 claimed, "almost one of every three American prisoners in Korea was guilty of some sort of collaboration with the enemy" and that "one man in every seven, or more than thirteen percent

was guilty of serious collaboration . . ."

The author refutes: "but only recently have the real facts about the behavior of our POW's in Korea begun to emerge.

"In his intensively-researched and profusely-documented book, "March to Calpmny, published this year, Albert D. Binderman characterizes that thesis as 'a fascinating spectacle of misinformation, misinterpretation, and misconception . . . That portrays army prisoners of war in Korea in the worst possible light.' At the same time the Biderman book sheds a good deal of light on what actually happened in the Korean POW camps.

"Of the more than 4,400 American prisoners who survived communist capture to return to the United States, exactly ten were subsequently convicted of offenses in-

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volving collaboration with the enemy. And while only 21 Americans elected to remain with the enemy in the only war Americans have fought where such a choice was possible, more than 22,

000 N. Korean and Chinese prisoners of war refused to return to their homelands."

The author singles out several other charges made against American youth and explodes them as pure myth.

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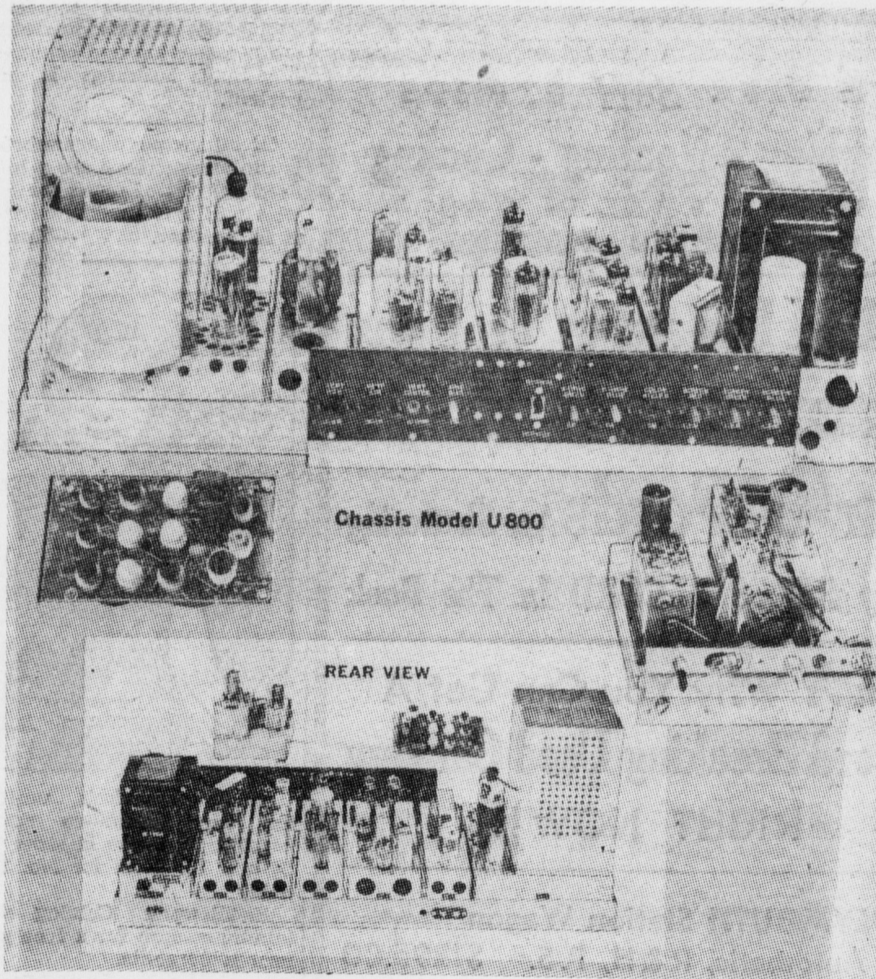
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