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Oct. 8, 1973

Letters to the Editor  
New York Times  
New York, New York

To the Editor:

Your editorial (Oct. 5) on the potential dangers of excessive televised violence is a commendable warning. However, you should have noted that all three network presidents and the head of the National Association of Broadcasters all acknowledged the need for reduced violence on March 23, 1972, when they testified before Senator Pastore on the report of the Surgeon General's Scientific Advisory Committee on Television and Social Behavior. The network officials all agreed the report contained sufficient new scientific evidence to warrant the reduction of televised violence.

Mr. Wasilewski, president of the NAB, and a staunch defender of prior network policy, complimented the Committee and quoted the major finding that there was an "indication of a causal relation between viewing violence on television and aggressive behavior." Mr. Wasilewski, presumably speaking for the industry, further said, "...even if only a small fraction (of children) are negatively affected, we recognize the need to determine how the negative effects can be alleviated."

Those of us who participated in this major research program and who heard the response of the networks more than a year and a half ago, believed that a real turning point had been reached. However, neither the 1972 nor the 1973 programs seem to show any significant change toward less violence. Indeed, a careful analysis of the 1972 content by Dr. George Gerbner, Dean of the Annenberg School of Communications, shows no significant reduction in violence from previous years. Obviously, something still needs to be done.

Eventually, there will be less violence on television. The problem remains to accomplish this goal sooner than later.

Eli A. Rubinstein, Ph.D.  
Professor of Psychiatry

(Formerly, Vice-Chairman, Surgeon  
General's Scientific Advisory Committee  
on Television and Social Behavior)

George -  
For your files. Hopefully, there will be a  
resurgence of effort because of the recent Boston  
incidents.

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