

Clubs' Aid Asked for Recreation

Crime Panel Chief Talks to Kiwanians

The executive director of the Metropolitan Atlanta Crime Commission appealed to civic clubs Tuesday to help equip and support play lots and other summer recreation programs for youngsters in slum areas.



McGovern

James L. McGovern, who heads the permanent metropolitan commission that grew out of the Atlanta Crime Commission's lengthy study and report last year, said the City Parks department will attempt to operate the play lots out of the regular budget if no federal funds can be found, but said that city funds are not adequate for the program.

He told the Atlanta Kiwanis Club that Sears Roebuck and Co. had donated four portable pools for the summer program, and urged them to consider financing a \$170 filter system for one of the pools as a club project.

McGovern said that if they will support the program, there are enough civic clubs in Atlanta, if each took a small project, to provide playground equipment for some of the lots and provide chartered buses for special trips, such as to the zoo.

"We're entering the summer. You are aware of the conditions last summer, and the unrest," McGovern told the club. "You have a vested interest in eliminating the conditions and the federal money that was made available on an emergency basis last year is not available this year."

The new crime commission official, who was an agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation for 26 years, added, "We tend to think of crime only in terms of the courts and law enforcement agencies, rather than as a portrait of the failure of society, a lack of employment opportunity and education, of disease and misery."

"Every survey I've ever read recognizes crime breeds in depressed areas," he said. "To eliminate it, we must eliminate depressed conditions. We must also have adequate enforcement by qualified personnel and we must pay for it. Anything that is going to bring crime under control is going to cost money. It's a community problem and every member of the community must give his support—both services and financial."

He also urged the club members as employers to consider whether their employment practices should "arbitrarily" eliminate all with past criminal records and urged them to "become individual crime preventers."