MITOR

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SIR,

It is time that we paused and took stock of our national
health and of our moral standards. What are we doing to protect
young girls? Hundreds of them have been seduced and infected
with disease. Many have had abortions performed, many are about
to become mothers, many have been arrested and committed to houses
of detention; and horror upon horrors, as soon as one
of girls are removed from the streets another lot are sucked
into the cesspool of vice.

Why is this evil allowed to flourish in our midst? Why
is the flower of our young womanhood, the future mothers of
Australia, allowed to be debauched and diseased? One reason is
that instead of trying to stamp out immorality and disease, those
in control have tried to make sex indulgence safe. Never in
history has there been any safe way of indulging promiscuously in
sex. Immorality and disease go hand in hand. There is only one
way of avoiding disease and it is an infallible preventive, and
that is chastity.

Instead of persecuting and humiliating and terrorising
the silly children who are lured by the blandishments and the
uniforms and the cash of those who seduce and infect them, we
should direct our attention to the seducers. We have a law in
Australia that provides severe penalties for the carnal knowledge
of a girl under 16, with or without her consent. Instead of
raiding residential premises and only detaining the girls, let the men
be found with the girls be detained and charged and brought before
our courts.

I have been to a number of meetings lately where men have
spoken of the spread of Venereal Disease and immorality, and
almost without exception they have blamed the girls for spreading
the disease and spoken of the need to protect the men.

Where is man's sense of justice, of chivalry, where is
his common sense? Can a man of 20-40 years of age require
protection against girls of 13 - 20? Can he be overpowered and
assaulted by these girls? The blame for the seduction of girls
and the spread of disease must be placed where it belongs and
that is on the shoulders of the men concerned. Any man found in
bed or in compromising circumstances with a young girl should be
detained and persecuted.
It is time the facts were faced. It must be recognised that a certain number of men are debauchers and perverts. While such men are at large they will continue to seduce and debauch girls and to poison and destroy the springs of Australia's moral life. They are a greater danger in our midst than a small-pox outbreak or a forger, or a thief, or a murderer. They must be removed from society. It is the only way.

The laws of supply and demand require this approach to our recent experience in Australia has shown that this law applies to the traffic in sex indulgence as surely as it does to other forms of trade in general. Remove those who create the demand and the evil will not be called into being. Our girls only want to enjoy a little fun and excitement. No doubt they are often silly and ignorant, but they are not bad and they are not diseased. All they have been seduced and infected by some man.

Yours faithfully,

(Assie W. G. Street)