B.S. on Baby Food from Beech Nut

A group of San Francisco mothers filed a lawsuit in September, 1976 against the baby food maker Baker/Beech Nut Corporation, for false advertising.

The suit stems from a Baker/Beech Nut mass mailing which warned some 760,000 mothers of possible dangers resulting from homemade baby food. The mailer claimed that homemade baby food could cause "methemoglobnemia" — death resulting from the infant's inability to handle certain chemicals in non-processed foods.

The mailer also warned that homemade baby food could become contaminated by bacteria, and it implied that baby food made at home could be less nutritious than commercial products.

The women, who are backed by a group of nutritionists and pediatricians, claim that the Beech Nut advertising campaign was not only misleading, but amounted to "scare tactics." Food contamination, they point out, can occur as frequently in commercial preparation as home preparation.

According to Dr. Ann De Huff Peters, a pediatrician and teacher at the University of California at San Diego, methemoglobinemia is so rare that she has "never seen a case in 30 years of practice." Dr. Huff Peters claims that she has long advised her patients to prepare their own baby foods, "because home-prepared baby foods can be as nutritious, or more nutritious, than commercial products."

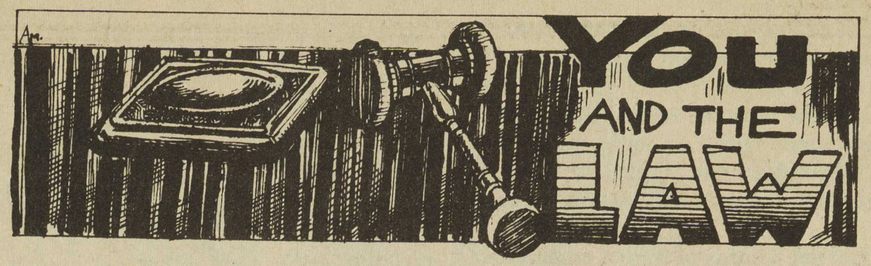
Where Are They?

A research organization, making a study of juvenile delinquency, telephoned 50 homes between 9:30 and 10:30 at night to ask parents if they knew where their children were. Half of the calls were answered by children who had no idea where their parents were.

(A Little) Power to Young People in Cuba

As part of a decentralization plan, Cuba recently conducted elections for local offices and a National Assembly. Meetings were called all across the country in villages and on city blocks, at which any resident over the age of 16 was entitled to nominate a candidate. However, the candidates themselves had to be at least 18.

Posters all over the towns and countryside asked voters to choose those best qualified to serve their interests. There had to be a minimum of two candidates for each office in the primaries, with three or four the general rule. Those elected to municipal posts then chose delegates to provincial governing bodies, who in turn chose deputies to the National Assembly of People's Power, the highest governmental body.



You Can See Your Files—Here's How

The Buckley Amendment is a short name for a federal law known as The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. It became law on November 19, 1974.

This Amendment gives the parents of all students under 18 the right to see, correct and control access to student records. Students over 18, and students in college or post-secondary schools, have the right to see and control access to their own records.

Youth Liberation believes that students of **all** ages should have these rights, and that the Buckley Amendment doesn't go far enough. Even so, you should take advantage of whatever access to your records you do have. The information here, supplied by the Children's Defense Fund in Washington, D.C., will help you do that.

Are all schools required to comply with the Buckley Amendment?

Any school which receives federal education funds from the Office of Education (OE) must follow the procedures required by this federal law. Most public schools and universities receive money through at least one OE program. A list of programs funded by the Office of Education can be obtained free of charge from American Education, PO Box 9000, Alexandria, Virgina, 22304 (ask for "Guide to OE-Administered Programs: Fiscal Year 1975").

How do I find out about the school record procedures in my school?

Under the Buckley Amendment, **schools are required to notify you about your rights.** This should include a description of the procedures for obtaining access, and for removing false, or misleading, material. If you have not received this information in the mail, call or write to your school principal or dean and request that he or she send you a copy of the procedures.

What kinds of student records am I allowed to see?

The Buckley Amendment covers all "records, files, documents and other materials which contain information directly relating to a student," and which are maintained by an educational agency, such as an elementary school, an office of a school district, or a university. The location of the record does not matter—discipline folders, health files, and grade reports and other records found in a cumulative folder are all covered. Schools are required to provide you with a list of all the records maintained on students.

Are there any student records that a school can refuse to show me?

Yes. You do not have to be shown:

1. a teacher's or counselor's "personal notes:" these are notes that a school official

---

Beginning in the next issue of FPS, Diana Autin, a long-time member of Youth Liberation, will take over the You and the Law column. She introduces herself at the end of this article.