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FEB 17 1981

High Court Can Regain Its Respect

IT IS encouraging to read that Chief Justice Warren E. Burger of the Supreme Court of the United States is interested in restoring security to our streets and the teaching of integrity in the schools.

He is in position to do something about these matters. Rulings of the Supreme Court clearly are responsible for much of the crime epidemic, the decline in morality, and even inflation. Reconsidered rulings by the court could be effective in reversing these trends.

Burger said our present legal system provides too much protection for the accused and too little for victims of crime. Agreed. How did it get that way? Largely because the Supreme Court ordered it.

This was done by placing strict limitations on law enforcement officials, by virtual abolition of the death penalty, by protecting "rights" of criminals through peculiar legal technicalities, and by demanding that states either provide plush prisons or release criminals.

The Supreme Court chief justice blames schools for part of the crime

problem. It is plain that much of it thrives there, because the court has censored use of the Bible and other books formerly used to "teach values of integrity, truth, personal accountability, respect for others' rights," as Burger put it. This has left the way open for the teaching of atheism and humanism and a general permissive euphoria.

Supreme Court rulings have overextended freedom of the press to allow pornography to be brazenly displayed on TV, in movies, on news stands and even in schools. Much of today's crime involves sex, and such teaching of immorality and permissiveness abets the crimes.

Rulings of the Supreme Court have reduced local school boards to little more than subordinate officials of the federal government. The court has helped to destroy neighborhoods by telling pupils they must attend schools across town and by upholding laws that dictate textbook selections, sports participation and financial plans.

In attempting to eliminate racial discrimination under the 14th

Amendment to the Constitution, the court has misled minorities into believing that laws alone will result in instant culture and instant wealth.

The court has upheld laws that interfere with operation of traditional free enterprise and competition, which give inordinate power to labor unions.

Rulings of the court frequently give the impression that the honorable justices never have read the 10th Amendment to the Constitution, which states:

"The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people."

If Chief Justice Burger and his colleagues should choose to recast previous rulings in the light of that amendment, those actions could result in solution of many of the nation's problems.

New opinions also could help the high court to regain the respect it formerly enjoyed among American citizens.