

RISE IN CRIME LAID TO A '600' SCHOOL

Brooklyn Neighborhood Unit Petitions City, Points Out Robberies and Muggings

By PHILIP BENJAMIN

Property owners, storekeepers and residents in the Prospect Park Plaza and Park Slope area of Brooklyn plan to petition the city for the removal from the area of a special "600" school for problem children.

The group, which calls itself the Prospect Park Slope Plaza Neighborhood Association, contends in a petition now being circulated that there has been an increase in burglaries, robberies, muggings and hold-ups in the neighborhood.

The petition also calls for an increase in the number of policemen and detectives to guard the area.

The moving spirit of the association is Ion C. Holm, a lawyer and real estate owner with offices at 312-334 Flatbush Avenue.

Temporary Now Two Years

Mr. Holm said last Saturday that most shopkeepers in the neighborhood were now closing their shops early for fear of being attacked and robbed at night in their stores. There have been a number of assaults on elderly people in shops along Flatbush Avenue.

"This was a high-class residential section before the school was put in here," Mr. Holm said. "They said the school was

only temporary, but it's been here for more than two years now."

Mr. Holm said he thought the only solution was to take incorrigible students out to Ellis Island in ferryboats every morning and bring them back in the evening.

Another lawyer, William Spanakos, of 316 Flatbush Avenue, said he would not go so far as that. But he insisted that the school was "a factor in the increase in lawlessness and crime."

According to Mr. Holm, the trouble was that the teachers at the school, P. S. 614, were not able to control the students' movements between school and the subway entrances. In addition, he said, the problem students tended to bring other delinquents into the area.

Shopkeepers in the area echoed Mr. Holm's fears. Louis J. Horowitz, a pharmacist and lunch counter proprietor said he closed his shop early these days "to avoid anything." He said he had asked, and had received, the cooperation of school officials in keeping the students out of his store.

At Helen Ligelis' flower shop at 312 Flatbush Avenue, Miss Ligelis said she had had fifteen robberies, burglaries or hold-ups. On May 10, two youths badly beat her father, 67 years old, and a friend, 90, in the shop during a hold-up.

"I am frightened to death in here now," she said. "I keep a can of lye to throw if anything happens."

According to the police, extra detectives and plainclothesmen now patrol the neighborhood. Nevertheless, police officials said, "statistically" there is no more crime in the area than in any other area of its size and composition.