

SELF-POLICING BEST WEAPON IN BATTLE OF URBAN CRIME

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BOOK REVIEW TAKE BACK YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD BY **RICHARD NEELY** 224 PAGES. DONALD I. FINE INC. \$18.95 "This is not a book about crime," writes West Virginia Supreme Court Justice **Richard Neely**, "but rather a book about acceptable citizen responses to crime." The best response, according to Neely, is to protect yourself.

JOIN WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS AND ROUST THE RASCALS WHEN THEY COME creeping around.

He is not, Neely argues, advocating Ku Klux Klan-type VIGILANTISM. THOSE KIND OF VIGILANTES, HE SAYS, ARE CONCERNED WITH punishing people who have a different moral code or are of another RACE OR RELIGIOUS BACKGROUND. NEELY FINDS THAT REPUGNANT. WHAT HE is talking about is public prevention of common law crimes.

Why can't the police do it?

For one reason, says Neely, the police are bogged down in non-crime-related duties. "The police," he says, "are called out.

FOR EVERY TRAFFIC ACCIDENT, NO MATTER HOW MINOR. THEY SPEND ENDLE ss hours, paid for by the taxpayers, in civil courts testifying about WHAT THEY DISCOVERED AT ACCIDENT SCENES. POLICE ORGANIZE PARADES, lecture schoolchildren about proper highway safety and the health hazards of drugs, and the police even chauffeur high ranking public OFFICIALS AROUND. IT TAKES LITTLE IMAGINATION TO UNDERSTAND THAT for every \$100 worth of police man-hours we purchase with our tax