

STATUS OF ATTITUDES TOWARD INCORRIGIBILITY

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The sociologist and criminologist know that times change, but that people do not. From the eighteenth century through present times, records have shown the frequent and brutal crimes of children as well as adults. Gangsters have been usually recruited from the slums of the cities. They have come up through the sand lots of delinquency and have made crime and violence their career.

Statement of Problem

After witnessing the spread of delinquency among America's youth and having observed the "so called" delinquents in the school in which the author has taught, and in the city in which he has lived, an interest was developed in the causes of incorrigibility and the possibility of rehabilitating the incorrigible. The writer has held the belief that very few, if any, of these delinquents were incorrigible and has also felt that as individuals they could be rehabilitated. This belief led to the desire to investigate the causes of, and corrections for, incorrigibility and to determine thinking regarding the effectiveness of remedial measures which were the main purpose of this study.

Procedures

To understand and appreciate the "incorrigible" problem, the writer

reviewed literature in the field of juvenile delinquency. Local authorities in Bozeman, Montana, who were concerned with the problem were contacted. The results of the review of material is presented in Chapter II.

Limitations

It was not the purpose of the study to solve the problem of incorrigibility, but only to set forth findings for the reader's understanding. For this reason and because of the time factor involved, the study was limited to the reference material available in the library of Montana State College and the material made available by the local juvenile authorities.

Definition of Terms

Because "juvenile delinquents" has been interpreted in many ways, it has been defined in this paper as those belonging to a particular age group who have been shown to the satisfaction of a court of law to have committed certain acts.¹

The "incorrigible" as used in this paper has been defined as one who is impervious to punishment. This term has been used in connection with those individuals who have become repeaters of various crimes.

¹Carr-Saunders, A. M., Mannheim, Herman, and Rhodes, E. C., Young Offenders, The MacMillan Company, New York, 1944, p. 146.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

A review of literature was made to determine the thinking of authorities regarding incorrigibility among juvenile delinquents. The literature was treated in two aspects of juvenile crime; patterns in, and causes of juvenile crime.

Patterns In Juvenile Crime

Delinquents tend to be greatly similar in only one respect, namely the fact that they have committed an act which is regarded, legally, as delinquent.

Bloch¹ has reported that in 1940 approximately one per cent of the population of age ten through seventeen appeared before the courts. By 1955, this figure had risen to approximately two per cent. This was a doubling of the rate in a 15 year period. During that period the number in the same age group had risen to approximately 20,000,000, giving an estimated total of 400,000 children haled into the courts. More recent estimates placed 2.2 per cent of approximately 20.5 million young people in the ten to seventeen year category as delinquent, indicating that the

¹Bloch, Herbert A., "Juvenile Delinquency: Myth or Threat", The Journal of Criminal Law, Criminology and Police Science, vol. 49, no. 4, The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, Md., November-December, 1958, p. 306.

courts presently handle about 480,000 cases annually. More significant, perhaps, is the fact that while the juvenile population has increased by less than eight per cent since 1940, the volume of delinquency handled by our courts has more than doubled during the same period.²

Contrary to popular opinion, however, offenses which bring the youth before the courts have rarely been homicides, serious sexual assaults, and/or public intoxication with which the popular press has aroused and titillated the public. The offenses have been largely in the nature of property thefts and acts of vandalism.³

Approximately 54 per cent of automobile thefts have been committed by youths under 20 years of age. However, the youth who took a car for the purpose of having a joy ride may be a completely different type of individual from the person who stole a car for purposes of personal gain. The former type of offense, comprising a large volume of typical automobile thefts by the young, actually may represent a form of youthful prankishness, and doubt has been expressed as to whether it should be considered a criminal act in the normal sense, despite strict definition by law.⁴ Even robbery by youths, accounting for more than 43 per cent of all

²Ibid., p. 306.

³Ullman, Albert D., Demone, Harold W., and Stearns, Warren, "Some Social Characteristics of Misdemeanants", The Journal of Criminal Law, Criminology and Police Science, vol. 48, no. 1, The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, Md., May-June, 1957, p. 46.

⁴Bloch, op. cit., p. 306.

robberies committed in the United States, has been examined cautiously. For example, it has been held that the reason for the high percentage of the young appearing in our national judicial bookkeeping is that the young, immature individual is apprehended while the more mature offender has learned how to escape detection. However, it has appeared likely that many forms of hard-core crimes have settled among our youthful age categories.⁵

Fine⁶ reported that between 1948 and 1954 the crime rate in the United States jumped about fifty per cent. The incidence of crime is outstripping the increase in population in a ratio of four to one. The population has increased five per cent between 1950 and 1955, while the number of crimes committed in those years has jumped twenty per cent. Late in 1954, the FBI reported that major crimes had reached a record figure of 2,159,080. An FBI survey of two hundred cities showed a rise in the crime rates of adults of 1.9 per cent as compared with an increase of 7.9 per cent in the crime rate of boys and girls under eighteen.⁷

By 1960, this country will have an enlarged population in the ten to seventeen age group. If the rate of juvenile delinquency has continued to mount at the rate experienced during the 1950-1955 period, the number

⁵Ibid., p. 307.

⁶Fine, Benjamine, 1,000,000 Delinquents, The World Publishing Company, 1955, p. 26.

⁷Ibid., p. 26.

of boys and girls going through juvenile court will have reached 750,000 a year by 1960. It was further reported by Fine, taking into account the number of delinquents that are not brought to court, that the fantastic annual number of 2,250,000 may be reached by that date.⁸

A study made by Frum⁹ of the files of Indiana prisons for adult male offenders revealed that 46 per cent of the inmates had an official record of offenses committed prior to age eighteen. Almost two-thirds of the criminal histories which showed a juvenile delinquency record began with some form of juvenile stealing, and almost one-third showed truancy or other minor offenses.

These initial juvenile forays led into almost all areas of adult crime from drunk-vagrancy level to murder, but 92 per cent of the cases were at the level of adult property felonies at the time the cases were taken for study. When analyzed, these crime sequences reveal a number of striking sequence patterns.

The most frequent pattern observed was progression in property crimes from petty stealing to more serious property offenses. A second striking pattern was a marked tendency to persist at the level of adult property felonies in sequences which started with juvenile offenses at

⁸Ibid., p. 26.

⁹Frum, Harold S., "Adult Criminal Offense Trends Following Juvenile Delinquency", The Journal of Criminal Law, Criminology and Police Science, vol. 49, no. 1, The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, Md., May-June, 1958, p. 48.

that level. A third pattern revealed juvenile truancy and incorrigibility as the starting point for many adult criminal histories. Furthermore, the serious consequences to society because of the failure or inadequacy of treatment of truancy or incorrigibility symptoms have been revealed in these cases. A tendency was observed for sequences showing adult felonies against persons to start in the juvenile years with other than property offenses.¹⁰

The data from Frum's study offered partial confirmation of the popular view that children who commit minor delinquencies and who persist in crime progress into areas of more and more serious crime.

Baker and Traphagen¹¹ emphasized that the concept of parental authority, particularly the patriarchal despotism of the father, has been the source of many behavior troubles for children. In the early tribal days of society and in the pioneering days of our country the father took a very active part both physically and socially in protecting, guiding, and rearing his family in the midst of enemies and physical dangers. Absolute authority was vested in him in all matters of discipline, beliefs, and social customs. To a large extent this attitude is still predominant in Europe and in this country. In fact, parental authority has had much sanction in courts of law whenever problems of discord over children have

¹⁰Ibid., p. 48.

¹¹Baker, Harry J. and Traphagen, Virginia, The Diagnosis and Treatment of Behavior-Problem Children, The MacMillan Company, 1936, p. 14.

arisen. It was stated that any attempt to evolve a theory of child training which is not based solely on the principle of absolute parental authority, either through general social custom or through individual revision, brings clashes to which parents do not adjust themselves.¹²

Baker and Traphagen reported that parents have in their background a type of tradition regarding their authority which is difficult to overcome; they subconsciously endorse it as having been painful but satisfactory in their own lives; they believe that there should be no easier program for their children. Immigrants to America and first generation Americans among the laboring and artisan classes have suffered most from making the sudden change; their children try to break away into new social traditions. The delinquency areas of large cities are mute testimony to the workings of this process. Even though the populations of slum districts change from one nationality to another, the percentage of juvenile maladjustment and delinquency remains about the same for all groups.¹³

In order to fully understand the patterns of juvenile crime, we have had to investigate the causes of juvenile delinquency.

Causes of Juvenile Crime

Fine¹⁴ stated a juvenile delinquent is not simply a thief, or a

¹²Ibid., p. 14.

¹³Ibid., p. 14.

¹⁴Fine, op. cit., p. 51.

murderer, or a vandal; he is a troubled human being who steals or destroys as a result of pressures both within and without. He doesn't just suddenly make the front page by committing a serious crime. The armed holdup, cases of assault, and so on, are usually the climaxes of a series of smaller rebellions against society. A child is truant or runs away from home long before he "kills for thrills."¹⁵

Truancy. Truancy is an important cause of juvenile crime as was shown in the Gluecks'¹⁶ study comparing five hundred delinquent boys with five hundred nondelinquent boys. They found that 94 per cent of the delinquents had been truants. Of the 474 delinquents who were truants, a third skipped school only very occasionally, while two thirds were truant persistently. It was indicated in a questionnaire used by Fine¹⁷ that 40 per cent of 208 girls at the New York State Training School for Girls at Hudson said that they played truant often, and 39 per cent answered "sometimes." Of 208 delinquent boys in the New Jersey State Home for Boys in Jamesburg, 41 per cent played truant often and 46 per cent said "sometimes."

Home Conditions. Home conditions were noted to be causes of

¹⁵Ibid., p. 52.

¹⁶Glueck, Sheldon, and Glueck, Eleanor, Unraveling Juvenile Delinquency, Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1951, p. 148.

¹⁷Fine, op. cit., p. 355.

juvenile crime. Fine¹⁸ maintained a child learned a lesson in brutality when he was beaten or when he witnessed his father beating his mother. This not only bred resentment in the child, but it undermined his feeling that his home was a warm and happy place. Fine claimed this was a feeling to which a child clung. Despite all that happened, the child tended to build up a rosy picture of his home. All the relationships within the family contributed to the child's picture of his home.

Though a child usually denied that his parents did not get along, investigation of individual cases usually contradicted the child's statements. In many cases these tensions resulted in desertion, separation, or divorce, and the child was deprived of a parent. A home where a child was thus deprived by death as well as by divorce or separation, was called a broken home.¹⁹

The correlation between the broken home and juvenile delinquency has been studied by many sociologists and case workers. Table 1 shows Fine's²⁰ comparison of 208 boys at the New Jersey State Home in Jamesburg and the same number of girls at the New York State Training School in Hudson in 1954, and 500 boys at Jamesburg in 1937, with relation to the correlation between the broken home and juvenile delinquency.

¹⁸Ibid., p. 73.

¹⁹Ibid., p. 73.

²⁰Ibid., p. 74.

TABLE 1. CORRELATION BETWEEN THE BROKEN HOME AND JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

	From broken homes	From normal homes
Jamesburg Boys, 1937	28.0%	72.0%
Jamesburg Boys, 1954	60.6%	39.4%
Hudson Girls, 1954	77.9%	22.1%

The table is self-explanatory and shows an increase since 1937 of children from broken homes. The growing incidence of divorce and separation of parents apparently has caused increasing difficulties for children. A summarization of surveys also showed that broken homes have been caused not so much through the death of a parent as through divorce, or desertion, especially the latter.²¹

The broken home has not been in itself a cause of delinquency, but the emotional and physical deprivations implicit in it have been. This was ascertained by Fine.²² He also stated that the broken home was only an outward sign that a child was not receiving the love he needed. A complete home marked by dissension may have been psychologically and socially more "broken" than a physically broken home in which the remaining members of the family carried on as a closely knit group.²³

²¹Gluecks, op. cit., p. 90.

²²Fine, op. cit., p. 75.

²³Ibid., p. 75.

There was considerable evidence that the forces of disruption of home were greater than those making for unity in the families of the delinquents. This was concluded by the Gluecks and is illustrated in Table 2.²⁴

TABLE 2. COHESIVENESS OF FAMILY

Extent	<u>Delinquents</u>		<u>Non-Delinquents</u>		<u>Difference</u>
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent
Marked	80	16.0	309	61.8	-45.8
Some	296	59.3	187	37.4	21.9
None	123	24.7	4	0.8	23.9
	—	—	—	—	
Total	499	100.0	500	100.0	

An evaluation of Table 2 shows that a lower proportion of the families of the delinquents than of the non-delinquents could be characterized as cohesive; that is, evincing strong emotional ties among the members, joint interests, pride in their home, and a "we" feeling in general. In 24.7 per cent of the families of the delinquents, as compared with but 0.8 per cent of the non-delinquents, the self-interest of

²⁴Gluecks, op. cit., p. 115.

each member clearly exceeded the group interest; to the former group, home was just a place to hang a hat.²⁵

Gangs and Slums. Fine²⁶ noted that delinquencies are usually committed by gregarious boys and very frequently in groups of two or more. Not all delinquents have been gang members, nor have all boys who live in slums belonged to gangs. But gang membership was found to be frequent among city boys who become habitual delinquents or incorrigibles. Tappan²⁷ reported that during the gang age, group pressures and loyalties are a strong propellant to behavior acceptable to one's fellows; the child's desires for recognition and for adventure may be channelized through group associations into delinquency because of the pleasurable excitement of the forbidden, or defiance to authority, and because of the prestige value of bravado. In the report by the Gluecks it was disclosed that 56 per cent of the training-school boys were gang members as contrasted with 0.6 per cent of the boys from similar neighborhoods who formed the control group.²⁸

It has been shown that the youngster of strong sadistic trends will spot the potentially willing partner in a group. They will "pal" and associate on their own choice with children who may be expected to support,

²⁵Ibid., p. 115.

²⁶Fine, op. cit., p. 98.

²⁷Tappan, Paul W., Juvenile Delinquency, McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., 1949, p. 146.

²⁸Gluecks, op. cit., p. 163.

supplement, or contribute to their own constant search for delinquent enjoyment.²⁹

Slums and gangs have gone together, but the elimination of slums would not necessarily eliminate gangs. The growth of unwholesome gangs has been an unfortunate phenomenon in present-day American life, and gangs have existed in economically well-to-do suburban communities as well as in the slum areas.³⁰

Residential Stability. Residential stability has been a point that is crucial in explaining delinquency rates. It has been stated by the Gluecks³¹ that stability is one of the basic elements of a favorable environment for a growing child. They found a correlation between delinquency and the physical instability of the home in addition to the unfortunate effects that emotional instability of the home can have on a child, preparing him for delinquency.

A study by Lander³² pointed out that social disorganization is a crucial factor in explaining delinquency rates. He stated that it is not so much a deteriorated slum area that causes delinquency as it is an unstable area. When a slum area that has not changed in over fifty years

²⁹Redl, Fritz and Wineman, David, Children Who Hate, The Free Press, Glencoe, Illinois, 1956, pp. 156-157.

³⁰Gluecks, op. cit., p. 164.

³¹Gluecks, op. cit., p. 120.

³²Fine, op. cit., p. 100.

is compared with one with a population that has changed every five years or ten years, statistics have shown that the stable area has reduced its delinquency rate, while the area that was in a constant state of flux continued to develop delinquency at a higher rate.

In other words, one of the causes of delinquency has been the mobility of population in a specific community which has in turn created residential instability. Lander held that when a child thinks of himself as a transient, he is much less inclined to be governed by what society thinks of his behavior, and he has a harder time finding constructive outlets for his energy.³³

Respect for Authority. The breakdown of respect for authority, according to one study has been one factor contributing to juvenile delinquency.³⁴ It was found that in the gang group the authority of the police, the courts, the parents, and the teachers was at times completely unrecognized. On the whole, the delinquents have been uncooperative, unconventional, nonsubmissive to authority, independent, and uninhibited. In almost every respect the delinquent has been an unhappy and dissatisfied person and was emotionally disturbed.

Summary

The review of literature revealed no general agreement among

³³Ibid., p. 100.

³⁴Gluecks, op. cit., p. 215 ff.

authorities on the causes of incorrigibility or delinquency. Authorities did agree that children who commit minor delinquencies and who persist in crime progress into areas of more and more serious crime. It was also agreed that the juvenile delinquent is not simply an individual that committed certain acts shown to the satisfaction of a court of law, but that he is a troubled human being who steals or destroys as a result of pressures both within and without.

In Chapter III some possible solutions for remedying juvenile delinquency and preventing incorrigibility will be presented.

CHAPTER III

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS FOR REMEDYING INCORRIGIBILITY

Through the review of literature two basic approaches to eliminate or remedy incorrigibility and put an end to the growth of juvenile delinquency evolved. These are the "woodshed" method and the "scientific" approach.

Woodshed Method

Those who have advocated the "woodshed" method would have practiced corporal punishment on those individuals who have not or would not conform to the rules of society.

A conversation with a reformed ex-convict¹, who had served time for various crimes ranging from drunkenness to burglary, stressed that teaching respect to delinquents would help remedy the problem. He stated that individuals respect others for two reasons. One is for leadership ability, wealth or some other quality and the other reason for respect is fear. The ex-convict stated that his peer group, the lawless element, lost his respect because of lack of loyalty to the group. He discovered that they really weren't "tough"--they could be "broken" very easily if certain procedures were used.

¹For obvious reasons the name of the ex-convict has been withheld.

He claimed that the incorrigible was an individual that hadn't learned respect for others or for personal property. His "remedy" for incorrigibility would be to inflict drastic corporal punishment upon the individual until he had learned to conform to the rules of society.

This individual has not been forced to stand alone. There have been other proponents of the good old-fashioned woodshed method of enforcing discipline who earnestly believe in "whaling some sense" into delinquent and predelinquent children. Some judges, policemen, probation officers, and teachers have endorsed this method.²

It has been noted that many of the incorrigibles are "muscle" conscious. They are readily impressed with feats of strength and seem to respond to rough treatment.³

In a report by the King's County Grand Jurors' Association it was suggested that there be an addition of several thousand patrolmen to the police force, that policemen be required to carry their sticks when on patrol duty, and that all children be fingerprinted.⁴ The report asserted that current laws providing special treatment for youthful offenders do not act as deterrents to crime. The report concluded that the existing legislation made it easier for juvenile delinquents to get away with

²Fine, Benjamine, 1,000,000 Delinquents, The World Publishing Company, 1955, p. 131.

³This information was received from Warren Nunn in a personal interview. Mr. Nunn was associated with the California Youth Authority for five years.

⁴Fine, op. cit., p. 133.

criminal acts, and resulted in a mere tap on the wrist as punishment. The reporters feared that many of these problem children would end up with the idea firmly implanted that they were heroes, or at least misunderstood martyrs, because of the coddling they received, instead of the correction they should have had.

It has been stated that the cry for action, for punishment, for a positive stand on the question of delinquent children, is not one that can be overlooked.⁵ It has also been said that those who endorse such a plan of correction advocate the type of identity thinking that is shared with the lower animals.⁶ They are said to involve an emotional way of attacking the problem rather than a thoughtful process. The problem has had a snowballing effect on those advocating the woodshed method because the "evil = crime = danger = fear = HATE".⁷

Scientific Method

The scientific method is defined as an approach which avoids corporal punishment, and has been based on the premise that there is no such thing as a "born" bad boy. It holds that every boy is born with the equipment to be good. Fine⁸ claimed there was however, the unhappy boy,

⁵Ibid., p. 133.

⁶Ibid., p. 135.

⁷Ibid., p. 135.

⁸Ibid., p. 133.

and if you scratched the surface of the bad boy, you would have found an unhappy child. He maintained the need for accurate diagnosis in behavior maladjustments has been more urgent than in many other types of difficulties. When a child is crippled, his condition is more or less obvious and is recognized as a defect. When a child begins to defy the teacher, fight with his classmates, or steal from others, he is usually considered a perfectly normal social being, merely afflicted with badness which should be removed as easily as putting glasses on the child who cannot see normally. The problem cannot be solved without understanding the causes and seriousness of the difficulties and what must be done to remedy them.

Baker and Traphagen⁹ maintained the treatment of behavior problems should cover the quiet, retiring, timid, and introvert types of individuals who create no disturbance, as well as the overt, aggressive, dominant, and disagreeable individuals.

Kahn¹⁰ stated new methods of dealing with delinquents have not advocated a mushy sentimentality or a coddling of these youths. They have advocated both an art and a science of firmness and kindness, meeting the needs of the youth as they can be perceived through the application of

⁹Baker, Harry J., and Traphagen, Virginia, The Diagnosis and Treatment Of Behavior-Problem Children, The MacMillan Company, New York, 1936, p. 30.

¹⁰Kahn, Alfred J., "The Untried Weapon Against Delinquency", Federal Probation, vol. 22, no. 3, Administrative Office Of The United States, Washington, D. C., September, 1958, p. 11.

what is known of human development.

One of the ways to accomplish this is, for example, that our juvenile courts have a staff of trained probation officers. Beck¹¹ reported that only eleven per cent of all the juvenile officers doing probation work in the United States had the necessary professional training, and that in half of the juvenile courts in the United States, there were no probation services.

Kahn¹² asserted that prevention is the major hope for reducing delinquency. It is about time professionals were trained in crime prevention for work on all levels in all hazard areas. All the conventional programs of youth-serving agencies could be used for the benefit of the problem boy, if the leader has been trained to use them. He also¹³ maintained no two criminal cases are exactly alike, and that each case must be approached individually. The methods that work with one might be entirely wrong for another.

Studies by Tappan¹⁴ have shown that prisons often do not correct a criminal's tendencies and that approximately fifty per cent of the boys who go to the country's training schools as juvenile delinquents still

¹¹Fine, op. cit. p. 141.

¹²Kahn, op. cit., p. 13.

¹³Ibid., p. 11.

¹⁴Tappan, Paul W., Juvenile Delinquency, McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., 1949, p. 146.

end up as adult criminals.

Why haven't the training schools done a better job? Fine¹⁵ states that most of the training schools have been overcrowded. He pointed out it has been difficult, if not impossible, to do an adequate rehabilitation job for individuals who need attention and treatment. In overcrowded conditions they are "thrown" in with companions who often can teach them more and "better" ways to break the law.

Fine¹⁶ ascertained there are 129 state training schools in this country and most of them are in need of additional help in the way of psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, house-fathers or mothers, research workers, and staff in general. When adequate adult supervision and guidance is lacking, the influence of bad companions can hardly be counteracted.

The results of either the "woodshed" or the "scientific" method have not proved that one method is better. However, there have been indications that the "scientific" method may be more helpful in curbing or controlling juvenile delinquency. The "woodshed" method has not been consistent. The public recommended this method after sudden waves of delinquency rather than using it as a preventive measure. The trends in methods vary within the community as well as nation wide. The conclusions

¹⁵Fine, op. cit., p. 315.

¹⁶Ibid., p. 316.

that may be drawn from this study should be helpful in understanding the problem of the incorrigible and in realizing the thinking regarding the problem. These conclusions are presented in Chapter IV.

CHAPTER IV

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The belief has been held that very few, if any, of the juvenile delinquents were incorrigible and that as individuals they could be rehabilitated. This study was made to investigate the causes of, and corrections for, incorrigibility and to determine thinking regarding the effectiveness of remedial measures. It was not the purpose of the study to solve the problem of incorrigibility, but only to set forth findings for the reader's understanding.

To proceed in this investigation, the writer reviewed related literature in the field of juvenile delinquency.

The review of literature revealed that the problem is a social and economic problem as well as a parental one. Young delinquents have come from the "right side of the tracks" and from groups where apparently the child has had every advantage. Research has pointed out that delinquency will not be prevented by merely complaining about the increase in the number of young criminals.

It was concluded that delinquency was the result of pressures both within and without. If the child did not have a normal home life he became emotionally disturbed. There was a direct correlation between broken homes and juvenile delinquency. At the same time, the child suffered just as grievously when the home was broken emotionally; when the family ties were kept together only on a superficial basis.

Good housing and adequate recreational facilities were observed to be strong deterrents to juvenile delinquency. Slums and gangs have gone together but gangs have been found in the well-to-do communities as well as in the slums. A correlation was found between delinquency and the physical instability of the home as well as the unfortunate effects it can have on an individual, preparing him for delinquency.

One factor contributing to delinquency has been the noted disrespect for authority. Delinquents have been to a much greater degree socially assertive, defiant, and ambivalent to authority than non-delinquents.

Conclusions

There was no evidence that severe punishment in itself given to children has had any effect whatsoever in curbing juvenile delinquency. However, most authorities do not advocate such proceedings. It is not an "either-or" proposition. There are times when the woodshed is necessary, but most authorities agree that the little bit of affection, of understanding, of security that a child may get at the crucial moment of his life may turn him from a potential criminal career into a trustworthy citizen working in the community.

The writer feels that with present methods and facilities there are some delinquents who can be defined as incorrigible and cannot be rehabilitated. It is possible that after the problem has been further studied and methods of rehabilitation have been refined and put into practice,

these individuals could become useful citizens. However, the present techniques and methods of correction have proven ineffective in certain cases. Some authorities working in the field feel there are few if any cases of incorrigibility. Others feel they do exist. However, the failure to rehabilitate these individuals, the author feels, is due to the present inadequate knowledge of proper techniques for handling these difficult cases. Nevertheless, the findings point to lines of action that can be followed with fair hope of achieving some improvement. The author feels that in certain cases immediate action is possible.

Recommendations

It was the conviction of most authorities that delinquency must be studied in several frames of reference. Therefore, specific areas such as slums, gangs, and moral standards must receive increased attention. Additional investigation of remedial measures may reveal ways for the possible prevention and rehabilitation of the incorrigible. This point of view has been adequately expressed by Fine:

We can view the future optimistically if we set out with firm determination to reach our goal. Our goal is to reduce, if not eliminate completely, those factors and forces that contribute to making a child emotionally disturbed, mentally sick, and potentially, or actually delinquent.¹

¹Fine, Benjamine, 1,000,000 Delinquents, The World Publishing Company, 1955, p. 354.

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