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My reactions to the Lindbergh-Hauptmann Affair, 1936.

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MY REACTIONS TO THE LINDBERGH-HAUPTMANN AFFAIR
How we make and how we treat criminals in the United States

WRHS
By
Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
At
The Temple



On
Sunday morning, January 26, 1936

The recent flight of Colonel Lindbergh and his family from the United States to England in order to find peace and privacy over seas from the all too intrusive and inquisitive agents of the American press as well as from the menacing threats of anonymous communications of cranks and criminals pouring in on that family, and the recent reprieve of the Governor of the States of New Jersey of the convicted kidnapper and murderer of the Lindbergh child - the reprieve granted after every court of higher law had sustained the conviction and after the Board of Pardons had refused to interfere and after the Attorney General had declared the reprieve unconstitutional - these recent affairs have set the minds of the American people to thinking again of all the bitter episodes of the last four years. For this affair revealed some of the dangerous blind-spots in our national life.

The whole Lindbergh-Hauptmann affair reveals American life at its worst. First there was the tragedy itself, the kidnapping and the murder of the child of the beloved hero of the American people who had brought such glory upon his nation - that in itself was a shocking and staggering thing to compensate. It was more so because our people knew that this was not an isolated incident, not a unique affair, by any means, that it was not the only act of kidnapping at that time or since. It was part of a frightful wave of crime which had been sweeping over our country for years, especially since Prohibition. The close of the Era of Prohibition, years which had provided lucrative sources of income to bootleggers and racketeers compelled this new generation, this new crop of criminals to find other

sources of income. Kidnapping promised to be most lucrative. The result was that before long the American people found itself helplessly facing a devilish crew of gangsters and criminals whose menace hung like a pall over the American home, particularly the homes of the wealthy. Every mother feared for her child as though she were living in some lawless jungle world instead of in the free and supposedly secure America of the twentieth century. This is the first bitter truth which was brought home to the American people.

This was a land in which crime was rampant - a lawless land. Our prisons were clogged full of prisoners. We could not build prisons fast enough. And yet our country was over-run with every form of desperado - gangsters, racketeers, criminals. One for every 450 million of the population fifteen years old and over is behind bars. And those behind the bars are only a fragment of the people who should be behind bars for every offender is not arrested; if he is arrested he is not always convicted; if he is convicted, he is not always sent to prison. They were either fined or given suspended sentences or paroled. This is a land over-run with criminals. The most tragic thing in the situation is that so many criminals are young people - boys and girls - almost fifteen percent of the crime population of our prisons are made up of young people under twenty; twenty-two percent of the people between the ages of twenty and twenty-four. Nineteen, was the dominant age among the criminals. I say, that was the bitter truth which came home to the American people - that they live in a land where law is not being respected, where an ever increasing number of people take the law into their own hands and endanger the lives and fortunes of other people.

Then the Lindbergh affair brought a second bitter and unpleasant truth home to the American people. The agencies charged with the detection and prevention of crime - the police agencies of our country - civil, state, and federal - were unequal to the task of apprehending the criminal. The baby was kidnapped on March 1, 1932. It was not until September 19, 1934, two years and seven months later, that the perpetrator of this crime was apprehended. For more than two and a half years the whole police machinery of the United States was focussed upon the task of arresting this criminal and they couldn't do it. The distraught and desperate parents were forced to resort to ransom and to appeal to the underworld for help. The most notorious characters of the underworld were appealed to by these parents to help save their child. And the American people knew that this undiscovered and undetected crime was also not unique but another of a large number of national crimes going unsolved. The incompetence and inefficiency of their agencies for the protection and security of society and the lack of coordination between our local, state and federal agencies came home with striking force to the American people.

Then came another bitter truth. The criminal Hauptmann was arrested in September, 1934. It was three and a half months before he was brought to trial. Seven long weeks were consumed in the trial. He was finally convicted and sentenced on February 13, 1935 to die a month later, on March 18, 1935. It is almost a year now since his conviction and his sentence and the criminal is still alive.

Every legal device has been exploited in his behalf. And now the Governor of the State who should be the one most concerned in

protecting the citizens of that state, who is charged to see that law is enforced - in spite of the fact that the criminal had every advantage of law, in spite of the fact that a reprieve was refused, in spite of the fact that conviction was sustained by every court of law up to the Supreme Court of the United States, in spite of the fact that the Board of Pardons refused to pardon this criminal - has had the presumption of which you read in the seventeenth book of Deuteronomy - to ignore the forces of judicial tribunals, of courts of law and has reprieved this criminal. And there is talk current now of giving him a new trial.

This criminal who, according to the testimony of the court, was positively identified by reliable witnesses as the receiver of the ransom money, in whose garage and upon whose person ransom money was found, on the door of whose home the address and telephone number of the go-between was found, this man from the attic of whose home wood was taken, according to wood experts, to build the ladder, and from whose tool chest came the chisel found with the ladder at the scene of the crime - this criminal whose handwriting was identified by numerous experts as corresponding to the writing found on ransom notes received - this criminal has been given every opportunity to defend himself in court, was found guilty and sentenced, and is now being protected and shielded from paying the penalty of the crime. And four years after the perpetration of this crime - this cold, brutal murderer is still alive.

This is how justice is carried out in the United States. And this is how justice is carried out in England: In a recent address Colonel Henry L. Stimson, former Secretary of State, related his experience

of a murder trial in Great Britain. "Just as we were leaving home a brutal murder, which in this country would be called highly sensational, occurred in England. Its details filled the American newspapers as we went to our ship....When on a Saturday we landed at Southampton, we found that the criminal had already been apprehended, an indictment had already been duly found, all of the preliminary preparations for trial had already been made, and the trial itself had been set for the following Monday....In America the mere impaneling of a jury in such a case would have been a matter of days or perhaps weeks. In England it lasted a few minutes. The trial, itself, lasted only two days, and by Tuesday afternoon, the case had been finished, the counsel had summed up, the judge had charged, and the jury had rendered a verdict of guilty." This is how things are done in a civilized land, where law is law and justice is justice.

Then came another discouraging and disheartening thing - the trial itself. It was a shameful thing. It was a Roman holiday. It was a three-ring circus, a show. For weeks before the trial, and during the weeks of the trial, the case was tried in almost every newspaper in the land. It was commented upon, editorialized, against the best practice and ethics which should prevail in a country. Every act during this trial had the spotlight of publicity put upon it. Most every paper in the East and throughout the country was building up its circulation on the strength of the Hauptmann trial. The courtroom where the trial was held was converted into a mecca of the curious into which every correspondent, and every intrusive individual poured. There were seven hundred reporters besides other writers, photographers, etc. A special airport was built so that the airships could carry

photographs more quickly to points of destination all over the country. A camera and sound apparatus were smuggled into the courtroom and talkies were later shown in the movies all over the United States. The proceedings were radioed hourly all over the land. The streets outside the courtroom were like a Fair - peddlers, hawkers were selling miniature replicas of the ladder found during the crime just as during the French Revolution miniature replicas of the guillotine were sold. Restaurants advertised "Lindbergh steaks", "Hauptmann beans" and "Jafsie chops". It was a show. Society people were subpoenaed in order that they would be sure to have seats in the courtroom.

While the jury was out deliberating, this is the scene that took place in the courtroom and which was described in the New York Herald Tribune on that day:

"From the time the jury retired until it returned with the death sentence the scene in the courtroom was a cross between a carnival and a basket picnic. With Justice Trenchard off the bench and reading in his chambers, all decorum was cast aside. Attorney General Wilentz sat in the jury box and his adversary, Mr. Reilly, graced the witness chair...The floor was littered with papers, cigarette stubs and remnants of soggy sandwiches. People with paper bags in their hands were munching sandwiches and cakes and drinking coffee, milk, beer and applejack.

"Games of checkers and tic-tac-toe were in progress in the open courtroom. In the judge's library, unknown to Justice Trenchard, a dice game was rolling along. Reporters, radio men, Broadway characters, court stenographers and lawyers tried their luck with the dice. The stakes ran high, one man winning \$200 on two passes...One of the defense

counsel collected \$75 and remarked, 'That's more than I earned during the whole trial.'

"To the dismay of the gamblers, Justice Trenchard left his chambers and cut across the courtroom in quest of a law book from the library. Word of his coming preceded him, and the players hid their money and grabbed law books for themselves. When the dignified old justice entered his own library he saw an unusually studious group of law students.

"As soon as he departed, a quizzical smile on his face, the law students dropped their books, put the money back on the floor and resumed the casting of the dice. They kept at it until word came that the prosecutors thought they had better stop.

"Mr. Wilentz sat in the jury box and wisecracked to reporters: 'This is where I should have been in the first place.'

"Mr. Reilly sat in the witness chair and burlesqued the testimony of state's witnesses. Mr. Reilly shot questions at himself, then pretended to be too deaf to hear them. Cupping a hand to his ear, he said, 'What was that? What? Repeat the question.' Mr. Reilly liked the witness chair so well, he stayed there to read his paper and smoke his cigar. Everyone else was smoking and the room was filled with a thick bluish haze."

This is what took place in an American temple of justice. Our law is brought into disrepute, is cheapened in the eyes of the people. Why?

Much of the blame for turning this trial into a side-show is to be saddled squarely upon the press of the United States. The press

of this country commercialized this trial beyond every bond of decency. They treated this trial not with the dignity and solemnity which it called for but as if it were ^a championship prize-fight or a baseball game for the winning of the pennant.

The press of the United States exercised neither restraint, not tact, nor propriety. Of course a newspaper should reflect faithfully the life of the day. They should give you the full panorama, the lights as well as the shadows. I am not a Puritan and I do not expect a newspaper to shut its columns to the evils which go on in our daily life which are not pleasant reading. On the other hand, there is such a thing as focussing the people's attention to one event and holding it there day after day, week after week, until the public becomes morbid. While it is true that newspapers give people what they want, it is also true that newspapers artificially create demands which they later on blame on readers for emphasis. A newspaper not only reflects, it directs. It stimulates and arouses interest. In this particular incident, the newspapers of the United States exercised no restraint, no qualities of selection, no desire to bring home to the American people the horror of it all, the moral lesson of it all. It was from the outset, simply out to create an extra increase in circulation.

Perhaps the press of the United States, in one way was also responsible for the recent flight of the Lindbergh family from the shores of the United States. For years his family has been subjected to the merciless inquisitive intrusive publicity of newspaper ~~men~~ men with the result that they had no privacy. Every incident in their

domestic life became almost instinctively public. No man should be subjected to that. It is unfair, indecent. A newspaper is not a national detection bureau but a private commercial institution and should claim no privileges that such an institution claims. There are areas in a man's life which are his own and which none has the right to intrude.

What are my reactions to this Lindbergh-Hauptmann affair? My basic reaction is that we have a long way to go before we will have truly become a civilized people, because in a truly civilized community people see to it that there is justice and that justice which is so very vital to its life is sure, quick and certain. A truly civilized community reveres law and the courts of law - everything that goes with the administration of law. Our fore-fathers used to speak of awe, "The awe of law and of the awe of the judge." One of the Rabbis warned his people: "Do not treat law and justice lightly because justice is one of the three cornerstones upon which the world rests - on law, on truth and on peace." Law is one of the three foundations of society. In our tradition, in the tradition of a country like England, law is something divine, "Law is a God." In a truly civilized community, a judge is respected for his learning, for his integrity and is chosen to office on the basis of these qualities and not on the basis that they are clever persons at electioneering and hearty handshakers, not on the basis of handing out whiskey flasks, not on the basis of being able to go from social gathering to meeting night after night getting votes for himself. The Mishnah describes the type of man chosen for judge: "A man who is wise, learned in the law, who is also a man of humility

and modesty, a man who fears sin, a man whose past life was without blemish and without sin, a man with whom people can live, who is accessible to people, who is not arrogant and insolent. This is the type of man who would have been chosen for judge in a civilized community.

In a truly civilized community, crime is vigorously prevented and vigorously suppressed. Crime is studied scientifically to study its causes. Every effort is made to shield the rising generation against the temptations of criminal life. We do not do it in this country, my friends. There are two and a half million young people in the United States who are without jobs, without money, without prospects, without hope. How many of these are going as recruits into the underworld? It was estimated a few days ago that in the City of New York alone, there are 390 thousand young people from the ages of sixteen to twenty-five who are out of work. 140 thousand of them haven't done a day's work since they left school or high school - not because they are unable, but because society has made no provision for them. 140 thousand young people who have never done a day's work in their lives, who never knew the discipline of labor, throwing most of them on the corners and in the poolrooms, in the nests of criminals. Then we wonder why there is crime in the United States.

In our own City of Cleveland, I read a report which was recently written that only one out of every four graduates of major high schools had a full time job in the last seven years. In a civilized community, my friends, those things do not happen. In a civilized community they don't take a whole generation of young

people and plough them under. And in a civilized community, criminals are not made heroes. You don't parade a criminal across the front page of newspapers from coast to coast as though they were heroes worthy of emulation and adulation. We do it. We do exactly that. The Dillingers and Hauptmanns - they and their whole "mishpachahs" are displayed as the royal families of America. Our youth reads these newspapers and they are unconsciously influenced by them.

In a civilized community, the citizens know that police protection is efficient, adequate and reliable at all times. In our country, we know to our sorrow how inefficient our police courts are, how subject to corruption by politicians and to the underworld they are. There are instances of that in our own community where in complete defiance of law and order, notorious gambling institutions were conducted here, month after month, year after year, to the knowledge of everybody. The authorities in power refused to act. Those things happen in an uncivilized, unorganized community.

And finally, my friends, in a civilized community, the press is an agency of enlightenment and information, not a scandal-sheet, not a peeping Tom, not a disseminator of gossip or a purveyor of lurid details of crimes and criminals, but a responsible agency for the dissemination of necessary facts, conscious all the time of the tremendous power which it possesses and mindful of the tremendous responsibility which must come with the possession of such power.

The Hauptmann affair has been an unpalatable affair in American life and the sad part about it all is that it is not yet ended. But its lesson must be taken to heart and I hope that you will take its lesson to heart.

[illegible]

sentences, placed on probation, prevented by fine or paid. And undoubtedly the most tragic phase of our crime record is that most of the criminals are young people. 15 to an under 20. 22 to an bet. 20 and 24. More than 90% have committed crimes as young as 15 or 16. The L. K. but this latter part of our most lawless ones working here to two people.

2. Then came other unpleasant facts - very true but now sensationalized. The police and all the agencies, local, state & nat. charged with the detection of crime & the apprehension of the criminals - were helpless. They could not find the criminal. Baby kidnapped Mar. 1 - 1932. It was not until Sept. 19 - 1934 ^{more} 2 years and 7 months later - that the criminal Bruno Hauptmann H. was arrested. ~~He was~~ It was again - it was not the only case, crime which went undetected in this country. It was all too common. Our police agencies were simply not geared up to the task. The distraught parents, despairing of police aid, resorted to the thief, ransomed money to recover their child. They turned to the underworld for help. Customary character, the underworld were appealed to interfere on their behalf with the kid - This crime which remained unsolved for so long had become another with hundreds of deaths to the American people - the incompetence & inefficiency, their agencies of moral protection & security, and the devious lack of coordination bet. local, state & federal agencies -

3. Then came other more unpleasant facts - H. was arrested in Sept. 1934. He was not brought to trial until 3 1/2 months later. The trial last seven full weeks. He was sentenced on Feb. 13 - 1935. He was to die on Mar. 18 - 1935. It is now nearly a year since his conviction & sentence. He has not yet ~~been~~ been executed. ~~He has been~~ Every legal device has been exploited in his behalf. He has now been given a reprieve by the Gov. of the State. And the talk is current of a new trial for this infamous, cowardly murderer who, ~~has been~~ ~~convicted~~ according to the testimony - was positively identified by reliable witnesses.

but they should not distort the ~~fact~~ perspective. By pressing
too closely & too long on one ~~fact~~ phase, the swiftly-moving
eye - ^{for the sake of sensationalism} ~~they distort reality~~. They give false impressions to their
readers when they take on blame for the ~~the~~ emphasis which
the ~~press~~ ^{press} place put on certain events. A paper not merely
reflects. It directs. It stimulates various interests. The
press & the country play an explanatory role in the L. H.
affair.

7. And perhaps it was partially responsible for the last emphatic
incident - the Flight of the L. to England.

It has been charged that the L. found themselves for years more
harassed & virtually persecuted by the newspaper agents & reporters,
who were on their track all the time, allowing them no peace,
involving their privacy, interfering into their values of private
life, which were held sacred unto themselves - free from
the public stare & inquisitiveness. L. were not granted this
privacy. The least episode in their domestic life was by itself
sport for the news-sleuth and the camera man.

This is disgraceful & unpardonable. We have no right to subject
public men to such indignities. The newspaper is a ^{private} commercial
enterprise & it should claim no privileges not allowed to
other comm. enterprises or watchmen.

8. Reaction.

We have a long way to go before we shall be a truly civilized community.
① In a truly civilized community, Justice is our, supreme certainty.
It is feared & revered. A Court-room is a Temple, Justice
not a ~~show~~ ^{of our solemnity} - not a side-show at a picnic.
Judges are respected men of learning & integrity and are chosen
because of their high office for these qualities - not because they are

^{highly} hand-shakes, close elections, and ~~can~~ make the records of every body ~~see~~ in the city.

In a civ. soc - crime is vigorously prevented vigorously suppressed.

The prevention & crime is ~~is~~ studied. The basic causes are investigated. Every precaution is taken to shield & fight against crime. We allow 2 1/2 cr. young people to fend for themselves - without jobs without money - without parents!...

There are in N.Y.C. today 390,000 under 20 from 16-25 who are willing to work but can't find jobs & of these 140,000 never held a job in their lives

In Cleveland:- only 1 out of 4 graduates, H. Sch. had obtained a full time job in last 7 years -

Think! Plan under a whole generation - Recruit for Crime

In and. cam. - criminals are not treated as human not paraded for years across front page of newspaper & every detail, then times delayed upon - as if they were the worthiest object, examination.

In av. comm. - Police are efficient, thorough, expert, not subject to corrupt influence, & politics or the bribery, the lawyers. Sanctifying them without police communion. Shenff!

In av. comm. - The Press is an agency, information & enlightenment - not a scandal monger, gossip or peeping Tom

1. Recent flight - reprieve -

Revealed blind-spots - ashamed: Whole affair - how, at its worst

First - here. Shocking + staggering not only - Prostitution -

Am. found itself facing - devilish crew whose menace - Walters
Mothers feared - jungle

This was First - Land of Rampant -

Prisoners checked - Build - overrun -

1 - 450; 15m. tower - Far larger -

Youth - 15% under 20; 22% under 24 to. 1970

2. Then came - long known - Police -

Mar. 1-1932; Sept. 19-1934 - Over 2 yrs 7 months

Not unique -

Ransom - Underworld -

Inevitable -

3. Another - Arrested Sept. 1934 - Put to trial 3 1/2 months -

Trial of long weeks -

Sentenced
To die

Feb. 13-1935

Mar. 18-1935 -

Now nearly a year

Legal Devote - Reprieve

Talk of New Trial for infamous - identified - etc

This cold-brutal murder alive 4 years

Possibility

This is How Justice

Contrast - England (Just)

4. And Trial itself - Shameful - Not a judicial -

For weeks before - press

Every actor -

Papers were building up -

Flemington converted Mecca.

Too - Airport - Sound-apparatus - Radio -

Streets outside - Fair - Hawkers - Restaurants

Subpoenas -

White jury - (Juste)

thus was Trial - Carnival - disrupt

5. Much of blame - Press

Commercialized - exploited -

Prize-fight - Base-ball

Exercised neither Restraint

Reflect - Directs

6. And perhaps Press responsible for Flight -

For years -

Indignity -

ט מ לבלא חכס - אלפ זיג - ויבא חטא - אפוקא טא
אדא דזמאג נאחה דיניא - אעלף זמא זין זמא

people take kindly to him

- 173 and 174 -

one, three families

Divine. כו המה/הם ה'.

plant a grove ^{of fruit trees} dedicated to idolatry

New York Herald-Tribune
while jury was deliberating.

From the time the jury retired until it returned with the death sentence the scene in the courtroom was a cross between a carnival and a basket picnic. With Justice Trenchard off the bench and reading in his chambers, all decorum was cast aside. Attorney General Wilentz sat in the jury box and his adversary, Mr. Reilly, graced the witness chair....The floor was littered with papers, cigarette stubs and remnants of soggy sandwiches. People with paper bags in their hands were munching sandwiches and cakes and drinking coffee, milk, beer and applejack.

Games of checkers and tic-tac-toe were in progress in the open courtroom. In the judge's library, unknown to Justice Trenchard, a dice game was rolling along. Reporters, radio men, Broadway characters, court stenographers and lawyers tried their luck with the dice. The stakes ran high, one man winning \$200 on two passes...One of the defense counsel collected \$75 and remarked, "That's more than I earned during the whole trial."

To the dismay of the gamblers, Justice Trenchard left his chambers and cut across the courtroom in quest of a law book from the library. Word of his coming preceded him, and the players hid their money and grabbed law books for themselves. When the dignified old justice entered his own library he saw an unusually studious group of law students.

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his paper and smoke his cigar. Everyone else was smoking and the room was filled with a thick bluish haze.

Taken from
American Mercury - April 1935

"Justice Goes Tabloid
By
Newman Levy



In a recent address Colonel Henry L. Stimson, former Secretary of State, related his experience of a murder trial in Great Britain. "Just as we were leaving home a brutal murder, which in this country would be called highly sensational, occurred in England. Its details filled the American newspapers as we went to our ship...When on a Saturday we landed at Southampton, we found that the criminal had already been apprehended, an indictment had already been duly found, all of the preliminary preparations for trial had already been made, and the trial itself had been set for the following Monday....In America the mere impaneling of a jury in such a case would have been a matter of days or perhaps weeks. In England it lasted a few minutes. The trial itself lasted only two days, and by Tuesday afternoon, the case had been finished, the counsel had summed up, the judge had charged, and the jury had rendered a verdict of guilty."

From the Forum
March - 1935

ABSTRACT OF ADDRESS DELIVERED BY DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER AT THE TEMPLE, ANSEL ROAD
AND EAST 105TH STREET ON SUNDAY MORNING, JANUARY 26, 1936

MY REACTIONS TO THE LINDBERGH-HAUPTMANN AFFAIR

The recent flight of Colonel Lindbergh and his family to England in order to find shelter and seclusion from the prying ~~xx~~ and intrusive publicity agents of the American Press and from the veiled menace of threatening letters from cranks and criminals, as well as the reprieve recently granted by the Governor of the State of New Jersey to the convicted kidnapper and murderer of the Lindbergh child has forced many Americans to reflect again with sorrow and bitterness over the whole Lindbergh-Hauptmann affair and all its implications. The affair reveals glaringly so many dangerous blind-spots in our American life, so many things to fear and to be ashamed of.

The crime of the kidnapping and ~~xx~~ the murder of the Lindbergh child was terrible enough, but it also shockingly dramatized the frightening criminal trend in this country. It was not the only case of kidnapping then or since - a crime almost unknown in the rest of the civilized world. The end of the era of Prohibition saw many criminals who had formerly fattened on the profits derived from bootlegging and racketeering turning to other forms of lucrative crime, and the American people found itself facing almost helplessly, a devilish crew of gangsters racketeers and kidnappers whose menace hung like a pall over every home. Our national lawlessness appalled us. Our prisons were ^{choked} full of criminals. We could not build new prisons fast enough. And yet the nation was over-run with crime.

Another bitter truth came home to the American people. Our police forces - all the agencies, local, state and national, charged with the detection of crime and the apprehension of the criminals showed themselves helpless in the Lindbergh crime. More than two and a half years ~~xx~~ elapsed before the kidnapper of the Lindbergh baby was arrested. That was not the only case where crime went undetected

for years or permanently unsolved. The distraught parents had to resort to ransom and to the under-world in their desperate hope to recover their child.

~~xxx~~ Other unpleasant facts came to light. Hauptmann was arrested in September 1934. He was not tried until three and a half months later. The trial lasted seven long weeks. He was convicted and sentenced on February 13, 1935 to die on March 18. It is now nearly a year since that conviction and sentence. But Hauptmann is not yet executed. Every conceivable legal device and technicality has been exploited in his behalf. And in spite of the fact that his conviction has been sustained in every court of the land, in spite of the fact that the Board of Pardons of the State has refused to interfere, and in spite of the fact that the Attorney General had declared that a reprieve would be unconstitutional, the Governor of the State of New Jersey setting himself up as a superior judge in the case, has reprieved this criminal. There is now talk of a new trial. Four years after the perpetration of this dastardly crime, the cold, brutal criminal is still alive, the object of tender solicitude on the part of the Chief Executive of the State.

The conduct of the Hauptmann trial, itself, was a disgraceful affair. It was not a judicial trial carried out in sombre dignity and befitting solemnity but a side-show at a circus. The press, the radio, the movies all contributed towards making the trial a carnival, a cheap and lurid publicity ^{ORGY.} ~~xxx~~ The press of the country exercised neither restraint nor tact nor propriety in treating the case. Newspapers should, of course, reflect life faithfully. But they should not distort the perspective of people by focussing their attention too closely and too long upon one criminal case. A paper not merely reflects life, but directs it. It stimulates and arouses interest. It can both lower and elevate the tastes of people. The press of a nation is an agency for information and enlightenment, not a scandal-monger, a gossip or a purveyor of lurid details of crimes and criminals.

One's dominant reaction to the Lindbergh-Hauptmann affair is that we have still a long way to go as a nation before we shall be a truly civilized community. In a truly civilized community, Justice is sure, swift and certain. A court of law is a place of solemnity, not a show. Judges are respected men of learning and integrity who are chosen for their high office because of these qualities and not because they are clever at electioneering, or hearty handshakers or assiduous attendants at lodges and society gatherings.

In a civilized community, criminals are not treated as heroes and are not paraded - they and their families - across the front pages of newspapers for weeks and months as if every detail of their lives had cosmic significance, and should be held up for the emulation and adulation of the entire nation.

In a civilized community ~~about~~ police agencies are efficient, thorough and expert, and not subject to the corrupting influences of politicians and of the underworld. Law has been mocked in our own community for years. Authorities charged with the enforcement of law have permitted notorious gambling houses to operate without interference and with their complete knowledge and connivance.

In a civilized community, crime is vigorously prevented and vigorously suppressed. The basic causes of crime are studied and every precaution is taken to shield the rising generation against the temptations of criminal life. But we allow two and a half million of our young people today to fend for themselves, without jobs, without money, without prospects.

In the city of New York there are today three hundred ninety thousand boys and girls from sixteen to twenty-five who are willing and able to work but who cannot find jobs, and of these, one hundred forty thousand never had a job in their lives. In Cleveland, only one out of every four graduates of our high schools has had a full time job in the last seven years. We are ploughing under a whole generation! Unconsciously, society is recruiting candidates for the underworld from the ranks of these hundreds of thousands of uncared for young people.