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What is happening to our children?, 1953.

WHAT IS HAPPENING TO OUR CHILDREN?

The Alarming Increase in Juvenile Delinquency

November 15, 1953

My dear friends, much of the thought of our nation in recent years has been centered over-seas. As a people we have been very much concerned with world reconstruction, with world relief, with saving mankind from Communism. Some churches have made this project - saving the world from Communism - as their chief business, as if nothing else, no other serious problem confronted the American people. How to strengthen democracy abroad has been our chief interest. How to extend the blessings of the American way of life to other people. I think the time has come for the American people to take stock of conditions here at home. How sound really is the American way of life here at home? How secure and stable and strong is the American home? For it is the American home which, after all is said and done, it is the American home which is our fundamental, our basic institution. If it is sound, America is sound. The success of our democracy as the way of life is ultimately reflected and gauged by its success in the home; the quality of family life will in the last analysis determine the quality of our national life. Let us look at the stability of the American home.

Divorces have reached an all-time peak in the United States and it is the highest peak in the world. We read with shock from time to time, when we do read, of the satires of ^{Juvenal} juvenile and martial, about marriage and divorce in the decadent days of ancient Rome how divorce was more commonplace than the purchase of a hat, or a garment, but we come to a point where the satires of these classic writers or the philosophers among them like Seneca seem to fit like a glove perfectly the conditions of American society in 1953. And paralleling this shocking increase in divorces is the similarly shocking increase in juvenile delinquency. The United States Children's Bureau estimates that in 1951, one million young men and women in the United States came to the attention of the police

and that over 350,000 boys and girls were brought into our juvenile courts. And since 1951 the number has alarmingly increased. Crime among children has been increasing by leaps and bounds in these United States. Our own community, Cleveland, has been shocked by frequent press reports of gangsterism and hoodlumism among our teen-agers, of vandalism, destruction of property, of homes, of school buildings, from attacks on teachers' homes, of nearly all kinds in the catalog not excluding murder. There is a growing realization that there has set in in American life a threatening break-down of discipline and moral among our young people which if not checked may prove disastrous.

There has been in consequence a panicky rush to short-cut solutions. Bring the razor-strop into play and put an end to all this nonsense, is the advice of some, because if you spare the rod you spoil the child; apply physical punishment to the refractory and the misbehaving young person and the problem is solved. We all wish that it were all as simple as all that.

In preparation for my discussion this morning of the problem of juvenile delinquency, I found an opportunity to go through a very comprehensive study of the subject made by Dr. Shelton and Eleanor Gleuck for the Commonwealth Fund in 1950, of a voluminous study, careful, scientific, which they called, "Unravelling Juvenile Delinquency." Towards the close of that study one comes upon this conclusion of theirs - they conclude "that analysis of the wide variety and the perplexing interpenetration of the factors which enter into the causal process in juvenile delinquency makes it clear that no simple, nostrum, statute, institution or administrative set-up can be expected to prevent or cure the asocial and anti-social conduct of youth." In other words, there is no one simple solution for this problem. The causes are multiple and the treatment, accordingly, must be multiple.

And concerning punishment as the cure-all, we find that the International Forum on Delinquency which was held some two years ago, came to this conclusion. "Prevention, of course, is better than cure, but if we have to cure let it be

by rehabilitation not punishment. We believe that society has the obligation as well as the need to seek to aid, to reclaim, and to readjust for constructive social living those children who become delinquent. The roots of delinquent behavior lie in part in the defects of society itself, and we all share in some responsibility for them. We unanimously condemn any philosophy of taking social vengeance upon delinquent children, or any reliance upon a philosophy of punishment."

Those in my judgment who put their faith in physical punishment as a cure-all are as doctrinaire and as unrealistic as those who throw up their hands in horror at all physical punishment, as if it were a crime against the child, or against society, or against God himself. Not at all. A dose of punishment is at times necessary and desirable and helpful, and physical punishment is to be preferred to so-called psychological punishment, or social punishment, or subjecting the child to frequent violent verbal tirades of attack. ^{Disregard} This regard of physical punishment is much more wholesome and less resented by the child. A child who is normal, we are dealing here at the moment with normal children because children who are abnormal are sick children and require special care and treatment in which physical punishment should play no part at all. Normal children who have misbehaved understand fully the logic of punishment, and are themselves left with an unatoned for sense of guilt unless they are punished and are in a way relieved when they have paid the price for their misbehavior. Society finds it necessary from time to time, over and above all its educative and persuasive agencies for social cooperation to resort to punitive measures in order to bring recalcitrant non-cooperative members of society into cooperation. So must the home - the smaller social unit, the family. The administration of an occasional thrashing when it is fully merited and clearly indicated, all other measures having been exhausted, is no evidence of parental cruelty, nor will it destroy the so-called individuality or the independence of the child in later life, nor cause him to lose his love or her love for parents. On the contrary, it will help to develop

strong, responsible personalities and will inspire a deeper respect and admiration in the child for his parents, knowing deep down in his heart that his parents are applying themselves in a serious and competent manner to their education, and that they are sufficiently alert and intelligent and that they cannot be imposed upon.

I recall my own childhood - in public school I was no "Tzadick" and any time I came home and complained to my father about the teacher rapping me on the nuckles for this or that - my Dad, blessed be his memory, always threw in a good "Patch" for full measure. He always gave the teacher the benefit of the doubt and he was always right. He worked on a principle enunciated by our own Rabbis. He knew very well, " ", reverence for a teacher must be as great as reverence for God himself. Not only have our children, many of them, forgotten this fact, but their parents likewise have forgotten. But in punishing a child a parent should make doubly sure that he is not visiting upon the child his own sense of guilt or frustration, his own disappointment with himself for parental neglect, what he might have done for the child or youth in terms of example, or closer companionship, or more time and more attention devoted to him which might have averted the occasion calling for physical punishment. Sometimes when a parent beats a child he is really subconsciously flagellating himself; trying to atone for his own mistakes, his own disappointments or the unhappiness of his own life.

I have been speaking of young people who are not police cases, actual delinquents who have criminally defied the laws of society, young people who require institutional treatment. I have been speaking of those boys and girls who have not yet reached juvenile courts or social agencies but who do get into very serious mischief, who do play cruel and pernicious pranks which go far beyond youthful playfulness, who yield themselves to high-spirit rowdiness which cause serious hurt and damage, and occasionally lead to unintended outright criminal acts, to the breakdown of sex standards, sex license and sex corruption

among teen-agers. Quite a number of such offenders come from what we call "good homes", although no home is really good which does not exercise a restraining hand on such anti-social outbreaks. When we speak of so-called "good homes" we mean, of course, homes which are not poor homes; homes in which the parents have had the advantage of education or where the children have not been deprived of normal opportunities for schooling, recreation and a good time.

The fact that so many of these border-line delinquents come from "good homes" proves conclusively as so many other facts do, the bankruptcy of all those theories of social reform which maintain that by improving the social and economic conditions of people you automatically improve their character and elevate their moral tone. This is simply not so. Well-to-do and prosperous homes have provided and are providing their full quota of children who become lawbreakers, dope addicts, and gamblers, and prostitutes, and vicious criminals, and if not outright delinquents then bad citizens generally. There are more, of course, of such delinquents who come from poorer homes because, unfortunately, there are more poorer homes in our country. And also because the temptations in these homes, the irritation, the irksome conditions, depredations, are more conducive to rebellion against social restraints among boys and girls than in homes that are more fortunately economically situated. But more is needed, much more, to build a good home - that is, a home of goodness.

Some expert criminologist wrote recently, "children are not born with a tendency to law-abidingness. The opposite is more nearly true. Only by hard and continuous effort will they succeed in conducting themselves in conformity with standards set by the law, the home, the school and the church."

Now many parents help their children in this hard and continuous effort to integrate themselves into society, to become law-abiding and cooperative citizens. Many parents do not - they're too busy, being otherwise engrossed in their business or in their pleasures. They provide their children, of course, with adequate food and shelter and good schooling; occasionally they over-provide themselves -- them,

the children, spending money - a lot of money to spend - with cars to gad about at all times at all places; they deny them nothing except themselves. Some parents are actually afraid of their children; afraid to say no to them; afraid to cross them; afraid that in so doing their children might not keep up with the Joneses children. So these children drift into bad companionship, into bad hours, into bad habits. The parents stand by - inhibited - afraid. Many of these parents are never really close to their children; never intimate with them; never comradely with them; they don't live with them; they don't share with them, life and the experiences of life, and the wisdom which they may have accumulated in life. They give things - they do not share spirit because they aren't spiritual themselves in many instances. They get highly moral and indignantly moral when the children have committed some outrageous act and they lecture the child or punish the child. In between the long stretches of days and months and years, when intelligent cooperative love would have helped to mold character, and guide and instruct and inspire, they're not there. The child often frustrated, as most children are, bewildered, occasionally emotionally disturbed, simply have no one to turn to.

Now given the best kind of seed and soil and abundant rain and abundant sunshine, your garden may still be full of weeds. It is constant tending and weeding and endless loving care that will give you a beautiful garden. Conversely, even an unpromising soil, may be helped to produce a good crop, given adequate fertilization of the spirit, irrigation by love, by judgment, by tending and caring for it. And it is so with human beings, human growth,

" " , the man is like a tree of the field.

Now our young people today are no worse than those of other times; they're the same boys and girls, except in my humble judgment that they are less tended and cared for, spiritually I mean, and especially in the home. At a time, in a generation, in an environment when they should be even more cared for than at any time in the past because of the kind of a world in which these young people find

themselves. The world when so many things have been torn from their moorings; the world a frightful, intellectual and spiritual and political transition; the world of surging restlessness and moral unsettlement brought about by two World Wars, their terrific upheavals which resulted from them. A world which their young minds are impacted upon constantly by so much that undesirable, that comes to them over the radio and over the television. I came across the other day a statement that during one week in 1952 last year, a survey was made in the city of Los Angeles of television and in one week it was found that the youth of Los Angeles were exposed to programs of 852 major crimes, including 167 murders, assorted robberies, jail-breaks, lynching, dynamiting, saloon brawls and slugging. And then these same programs poured into Cleveland. The same filth. I'm not attributing all juvenile delinquency to television or to radio. As I indicated at the outset many factors contribute to it, but certainly this is not an insignificant factor. The whole standards, the values, the perspectives of children are distorted during their most impressionable years.

I think I told you some time ago of the little girl who saw a picture of an older woman at the piano and turned to her mother and said, "Mother, who is this lady?" And the mother said, "That's your grandmother." "Where is grandmother?" "Why she's dead." "Dead," said the child, "who shot her?"

Many delinquents come from broken homes, divorces. In this same study which I quoted a moment ago by Dr. Shelton and Eleanor Gleuck there is this comment: "More of the parents of the delinquents (whom they studied) than of the non-delinquents, more of the parents are separated, divorced, have never been married to each other, or are no longer living. It is clear, therefore, that while both groups of boys (that is, the delinquent and the non-delinquent - they studied two groups) that both groups of boys are residing in underprivileged neighborhoods (they took a group of delinquent children who came from underprivileged neighborhoods and non-delinquent children, coming from the same neighborhoods) - it is clear, therefore, that while both groups of boys are residing in underprivileged neighborhoods

and while the general environmental influences to which they are subject may thus be considered similar on the whole, the under-the-roof situation is significantly worse among the delinquents than in the homes of the non-delinquents." What took place within the home - the under-the-roof situation.

A broken home, my friends, is in the first place evidence of a lost reverence for religious mandates and its first victims are the children. When parents fail in the disciplines of life how can their children, far less mature, be expected to succeed? The emotional pattern of the child's life is determined in the home. Only the secure home which is grounded in basic religious loyalties, can raise children whose conduct will insure the social stability of the nation. The primary responsibility for strengthening the American homes lies not with the church, and not with the school and not with government but with the parents in the home.

There are, of course, many economic factors and many grave unsettlements of life today caused principally, as I have indicated, by war which have contributed to the weakening of the American home. What does all this mean? All this means that it is far more difficult to maintain a secure family life today than it was in olden days and that, therefore, greater demands must be made upon the individual, upon the inner spiritual strength of the individual - man and woman. Greater wisdom is demanded, greater courage, greater idealism, greater sportsmanship to preserve for themselves and for society the one indispensable institution for human happiness - the home. For what profits it a man if he be a success in business if he is a failure in the home; or for a woman if she is a success in whatever interests she may have, if she is a failure as a mother? One who fails as a husband and father or as a mother and wife fails in the most significant reaches of human life. And nothing atones for it; there's no substitute for it. And what profits it a nation, rich and powerful, if millions of its homes are torn by discord and become breeding places of twisted childhood personalities, of law-breakers and malefactors.

I'm not exonerating these other institutions - the school, the church, governmental society, of their obligations - they too have obligations and tasks to perform in building a fine youth generation in this country. Society as such must do its share to protect the home. Society must evolve a system of greater economic stability so that business cycles and prolonged unemployment do not put an unnecessary strain upon the home - strains which often men and women and young children cannot bear because they are too great for them. Society must seek to avoid war because there is no more disruptive influence as far as the home is concerned, and family ties and family standards, as war. There's no use blinking that fact. Society should provide proper housing facilities and decent homes for families. Help sent abroad and around the world to save democracy may well be spent in our country to build homes, to clear our slums and to give our children a chance to live in decent environments. Society should provide adequate education in preparation for family life, and social agencies to help men and women solve the problems which come to confront them from time to time.

I said all these agencies have their responsibilities and they must make their contribution, but when all is said and done, the problem is primarily a personal, spiritual problem of individual men and women who are concerned in the business of building a home and a family and it cannot be unloaded on society or on government. The great effort must be made by men and women themselves, and they can make that effort only if they accept and acknowledge and live by a clear-cut moral philosophy of life. They must decide what things are of primary importance in their lives - what comes first. What needs to be sacrificed for. They must make the grave decisions. And without such a voluntarily accepted code of conduct, code of discipline, binding upon themselves, they are lost and their children are lost. Even with proper housing and economic sufficiency and all of the protected safeguards and the undergirding agencies

which exist in a community, such a home will crack. America needs the sanctions and the disciplines and the spirit of religion in the home. We have separated Church and State properly - properly we have separated Church and State but we are now in danger of separating Church and Home, and that will come, I am afraid, disastrous to our people.

I am happy to see that in many communities of the United States groups of men and women are organizing for the sole purpose of studying this menacing problem of increasing juvenile delinquency and the increasing breakdown of moral restraints upon many, many more young people who never come to our juvenile courts - who come from our homes, good homes. They are beginning to turn their attention not so much to international affairs but to things much closer at home which concern not only the young-being of America but themselves - their own well-being, their own happiness. There is no poison in life comparable to the sadness which comes from a boy or a girl gone wrong. It need not happen except in such cases where the child is abnormal, and then it's a misfortune similarly to a case where a child is terribly physically sick. Over that we have no control, we use our best therapeutic knowledge today to help such cases. But of normal boys and girls, with the fine young people who are the hope and the promise of our future, they can be helped, they can be guided, they can be strengthened, they can be inspired, but the job is our job, father and mother.

I read you a chapter from the Book of Proverbs this morning and spoke about the instruction of Mother, the teaching of the Father, the Torah of the Mother - let's think more of that good friends.

1) Entered over-seas. Concerned with World-reconstruction: ⁽¹⁾

Relief - Saving mankind from Communism -

Some churches - chief business

How to strengthen Amer. abroad - Blessings of Am. Way of life -

It is well to talk stock & conditions at home -

How sound is the Am. Way of life - at home?

How secure - stable - strong is the Am. Home?

For it is the Am. Home, which, when all is said & done, is
our fundamental institution.

If it is sound - Am. is sound.

The success of our democ. - as a way of life - is vitally
reflected and judged by its success in the Home -

the quality of family life - will, in last analysis, determine
the quality of our National life.

2. Let us look at the stability of Am. Home - diverse - all-
time peak - highest in the world -

✓ Juvenial - Martial - Seneca - F. to like a slave (1953)

3. Paralleling - shocking increase - juvenile delinquency
U.S. Children's Bureau estimates 1951 - an million youth
came to attention, the police. - 350,000 boys & girls were
brought into our juvenile courts.

Since 1951 - number has alarmingly increased.

There is no one solution - 'Sheldon & Eleanor Glueck'
- concluded "that analysis of the wide variety and the perplexing
interrelationships of the factors entering into the causal
process in juvenile delinquency makes it clear that
no simple program, statute, institution, or administrative
"set-up" can be expected to prevent or "cure" the
asocial and antisocial conduct of youth" (p. 285)

- multiple causation
- multiple treatment



✓ Harvard Juvenile
Delinquency

- (1950)

'Commonwealth Fund'

I agree fully with the findings of the International Forum.
on Delinquency which was held some 2 yrs ago.

"Prevention is better than cure, but if we have to cure, let it be by rehabilitation, not punishment... We believe that society has the obligation as well as the need to seek to aid, to reclaim, and to readjust for constructive social living those children who become delinquent. The roots of delinquent behavior lie in part in the defects of society itself, and we all share in some responsibility for them... We unanimously condemn any philosophy of taking social vengeance upon delinquent children, or any reliance upon a philosophy of punishment."

They should be given proper ^{re-education and a better} social environment -
-and the psychosocial factors among them should be given
therefore care -

2

There is a growing realization that there has not is
a threatening break-down of discipline and morals among
the youth of our nation - which, if not checked - disturbs.

5. There has been, in consequence, a panicly rush to short-cut solutions.

~~The~~ Bring the razor knife into play - and put an
end to all this non-sense!

and to all this non-sense!
 Spare the rod and spoil the child! Apply physical
 punishment to the ~~disobedient~~, and the refractory and
 misbehaving young person - and the problem is
 solved. (Inde

solved

We all wish it were as simple as all that. (Judge)

Those who put their faith in phys. punishment, ^{as the crowd} do so
doctum in vari and unvariedly, & those who turn off
their hand in horror at all phys. punishment -
as tho it were a crime ag. the youth, or q.
morality.

not at all. A dose of punishment is at times necessary,
demands and health — and phys. punishment is the
preferred to psych. punishment, ~~a robust mental effort~~ a social ~~x~~ it is
more wholesome & less resented by the child.

A child who is normal - and we are dealing here (3)
normal children - children who are abnormal, as sick -
and require special care and treatment in which
physical punishment should play no part at all - normal
children, who have misbehaved, understand fully the logic
of punishment - and are left with an unreasoned-for sense
of guilt unless they are punished - and are, in a way
cheated, when they have paid the price for their mis-
deeds. Miss Scherer

Society finds it necessary - one and alone all its
educational and personal agencies for social cooperation -
to resort to punitive measures from time to time to
bring into line the recalcitrant or non-cooperative
member of society -

So must the home! The smallest social unit - the
Family!

(a) The administration of an occasional spanking when
it is fully merited and clearly indicated, all other
measures having been exhausted - is no evidence
of parental cruelty - nor will it destroy the individuality
of the child, the child is better off - nor causes him
to lose his love for his ~~other~~ parents -
On the contrary - it will help to develop strong,

superior personalities ^(not) and hold within a deeper admiration - &
then in the child for his parent, ~~knowing~~ knowing deep down
in his heart - that his parents are applying themselves in
a serious and competent manner to his education ^{and} that
they are sufficiently alert and intelligent that he cannot
impose ~~as~~ upon them. (Dad - Teacher - Ben. Schmitt)

(b) But in so doing, a parent should make doubly
sure that he is ~~not~~ ^{not} ~~relying~~ upon the child his own sense
of guilt - his own own disappointment with himself -
for parental neglect - for what he might have done ~~and~~
for the child or youth, in terms of example, or
close companionship, or more time and attention
devoted to him - what might have alerted the conscience
calling for physical punishment - Sometimes when
a parent beats a child - he is really floundering
himself - atoning for his own mistakes - or his
own disappointments - or the unhappiness, his own
life.

6. I have ~~not~~ been speaking of young people who are not
police cases - actually delinquent who have crimi-
nally defied the laws / society - who come to require
institutional treatment -
I have been speaking of those who have not yet
reached juvenile courts - or social agencies - but who

Get into serious mischief, cruel ~~permanence~~ ^{parents} which is far beyond
~~dissipation~~ just for playfulness, high-spirited rowdiness
which ~~to~~ cause serious hurt and damage, and
occasionally lead to violent ~~and~~ outright criminal
acts, and sex license and corruption on the part, boys & girls
Just a number of such juveniles come from what
we call "bad homes" - the no home is "good" - which
do not exercise a restraining hand on such anti-
social out-breaks - what is meant / cause - is that
they ~~do not~~ ^{have} come from ~~homes~~ ^{homes} of ~~relations~~ ^{relations} and from homes where
parents have not had the advantage / education or
have deprived their children of normal opportunities
for ~~rehabilitation~~ ^{rehabilitation}, and a good time.

2/. In this fact - as in many others - one can see clearly the
handicapping of all these ~~things~~ ^{things} which maintain
that ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~importance of~~ ^{importance of} these social and economic conditions of a people will by
themselves improve the character and elevate the moral
tone. This is simply not so!

Well-to-do ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~parents~~ ^{parents} provide their ~~full~~ ^{full} ~~sons~~ ^{sons} & children
who become rowdies, law-breakers, ~~do~~ ^{do} ~~adults~~ ^{adults} ~~parents~~ ^{parents}, ~~pranksters~~ ^{pranksters}
and vicious criminals; or, if not out-right delinquents, then
bad citizens generally.

There are many, of course, who come from proper
homes, because there are more poor homes in the
nation, and ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~less~~ ^{less} ~~likely~~ ^{likely} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~be~~ ^{be} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~same~~ ^{same} ~~condition~~ ^{condition}
disproportionate ~~than~~ ^{than} ~~more~~ ^{more} ~~members~~ ^{members}, ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~same~~ ^{same} ~~condition~~ ^{condition}

8. More is needed, much more, to build a "good home" - (6)
- a home of order - expert criminologists

① "Children are not born with a tendency to law-abidness. The effort is now nearly gone. Only by hard and continuous effort will they succeed in conducting themselves in conformity with standards set by the law, home, school and church."

(2) Many parents help their children in 'the hard and continuous effort'. Many do not - they are too busy, being other-wise ~~and~~ expressed, in their business or their pleasures. They provide them with food and shelter, with a clothing - reasonably they over-provide them with money to spend - and with a car to pad about - they deny them nothing - except themselves - and indulge their children - afraid

exact themselves +
Some parents are afraid, their children - afraid
to say 'no' to them - afraid to cross them - afraid
that in so doing, their children may not keep up with
the 'just children' - bad companions - bad habits
"I say" to their children,

the just children = very close
They are really very "close" to their children,
intimate, comrades, ^{living with them} sharing with them life, expense—
They "give"—things. They do not "share" spirit. They are "Un-
spiritual themselves. The child, ^{they find} has no one to turn to. ^{benighted, and highly} ^{disturbed}

Given the best seed and soil, and abundant rain and sun-shine and your garden may still be full of weeds. It is tending and weeding and endless loving care which makes beautiful garden.

Conversely - an unpromising soil may be helped to produce a good crop. by fertilizing it and irrigating it - by tending and caring for it -

It is so with human beings and human growth as well. - & also for nations

9/. Our young people to-day are no worse than those of other times. except that they are less tender and less cared for - spiritually - esp. in the home -

At a time when they should be cared for more humanely in the kind of a world in which they find themselves.

Salvaged to more wretches from fire as messengers - because of broken homes ^{and uncontrolled mass} surging restless seas of our days - brought about by 2 world wars - - TV shows laden with violence, crime, - menace to

10/. Many delinquents come from broken homes.

During one week in 1952 - by way of television programs, a panel in Los Angeles was offered to 552 major crimes, including 167 murders, armed robberies, jail-breaks, kidnappings, dynamiting, school breaks & "slayings" - Cleveland - draw 2 "Who shot her?"

10/. Many delinquents come from broken homes.

"Unruly Juvenile Delinquency" - Sheldon & Eleanor Glueck
1950 - (H. 91).

12 4
1. ^{too much} ~~most~~ of our thought - centered overseas.

Concerned with world relief, world reconstruction, saving world from communism

Poured out billions - to strengthen democ. abroad -

Sought ways of extending blessing of Am. life to peoples

(a) I believe - time is here - to take stock of conditions here at home.

How really sound is the Am. way of life?

How secure and stable is the Am. Home?

For it is the Am. Home which is after all the foundation

of our national life.

If it is sound, America is sound.

The quality of our family life will, in last analysis, determine

(b) From many directions have come disturbing reports - about instability, the Am. Home -; the breaking up of family life - in appalling increase in divorce - and in juvenile delinquency, which is the most disastrous by-product of the broken home.

2. Many explanations have been given for these alarming conditions - and many solutions have been offered

There is merit to many of these explanations and solutions
no single explanation and no single solution is adequate

13 (12)

~~_____~~



but the price

5. The agencies of communication such as the radio, the TV. and the cinemas have been

is fracturing upon the minds of our youth children and it is
our youth is many vulnerable and vulnerable ways.

to them over the radio and over the television. I came across the other day a statement that during one week in 1952 ~~last year~~, a survey was made in the city of Los Angeles of television and in one week it was found that the youth of Los Angeles were exposed to programs of 852 major crimes, including 167 murders, assorted robberies, jail-breaks, lynching, dynamiting, saloon brawls and slugging. And then these same programs poured into Cleveland. ~~The same filth.~~ I'm not attributing all juvenile delinquency to television or to radio. As I indicated at the outset many factors contribute to it, but certainly ^{they are} ~~this is~~ not an insignificant factor. ^{through them} ~~The whole~~ standards, the values, the perspectives of children are distorted during their most impressionable years.

I think I told you some time ago of the little girl who saw a picture of an older woman at the piano and turned to her mother and said, "Mother, who is this lady?" And the mother said, "That's your grandmother." "Where is grandmother?" "Why she's dead." "Dead," said the child, "who shot her?"

6). What do ~~all~~ ^{any} these ^{valued} explanations and others which may be advanced amount up to? What is the meaning of the sum of them?

8/ I am very happy that "J" has embarked upon an exciting program of expansion. I understand that it plans to build 10 new buildings for Greater Cleveland. - new recreation centers for our children - new ^{club rooms} swimming pools - gymnasiums - ^{club rooms} and more residence rooms. - This is the best possible news for our community!

(a) I read yesterday - (Jude)

9/ Here is the real, the major problem of Amer. Society today.

① Much of our thought in recent years - centered re-sons. Very much concerned, as a people, with world reconstruction, with world relief - with saving world from Communism. - Millions eyes glued TV - watching a rather disparaging humiliating work - threat in capital of our nation - which comes as a disaster to a hysteria and a nat. obsession with the menace, Communism. - We have poured out billions of dollars - Indo-China - all in our effort to strengthen defense abroad. - How to extend the blessings of our life to other peoples - save, them not at all cost for them.

10/ I believe that the time has come for the Amer. people to take stock, conditions here at home -

How really sound is the Amer. Way of life?

How secure and stable and strong is the Amer. Home?

For it is the Amer. Home, which is after all, our fundamental

(5)

The success of our dream - as a way of life, is ultimately reflected and must be proved by its success in our homes.

11). And from what I have read by you - it is clear that there is much ground for very serious concern - and heart-searching.

crossed back to the brother home.
The School, the Church, Government and Society have obli-
gations ~~is~~ to protect youth, and the harm from which they come.
~~Society~~ Govt. must evolve a system of greater econ. stability
so that periodic business depressions and prolonged unemployment
do not put an intolerable strain upon the home - too heavy
for men, women & children to bear.

as was. Govt. should provide proper housing facilities + decent hoes. Survey the cities ~~the~~ sent abroad to say democracy might well be what is our country to build houses, to clean out slums

and give our children a chance to live in decent
environments.

But we ~~can't~~ should not leave all things to ghosts -

We are free men - and want to do things by ourselves

for ourselves & our community -

The more wholesome environments we provide for our
children - the more opportunities for clean sport and other
amusements - the more for the learning & the practice
of arts and crafts - and the nourishing & upholding
associations, for and friendships - & contact with
fine, strong personalities in public & schools - the more
we do for our children & for ourselves -

the more
we teach
them the
good way
which
they
want
and

13/ 3 stars - entire

The cathedral of the future - postscript

- when we



the hall-marks of Free Men - right and duty / moral
initiative - corresponding " " " " Responsibility

(1356)

7. big people 600,000 - Tall Father "Torah" - Child
 those who love YOUTH - Immortal souls - Americans
crusade rededication - sacred to Jewish youth



(91)

More of the parents of the delinquents than of the non-delinquents are separated, divorced, have ~~never~~ been married to each other, or are no longer living.

It is clear, therefore, that while both groups of boys are residing in underprivileged neighborhoods and while the general environmental influences to which they are subject may thus be considered similar on the whole, the under-the-roof situation is significantly worse among the delinquents than in the homes of the non-delinquents.



18

and a new rel. emphasis

A new religious orientation is required for the preservation of our American way of life and for the preservation of our civilization.

has roamed globally and

Much of our thought in recent years has centered overseas. We have been concerned with world reconstruction, with relief of peoples abroad, with saving mankind from Communism. *Some churches seem to have made the latter their chief business.* We have considered many ways of ~~how~~ to strengthen ^{ing} democracy abroad, but it is well to take stock of conditions at home. How sound is the American way of life? A critical barometer of the American way of life is the American home. How secure, how stable, how strong is the American home? For it is the American home which, when all is said and done, is ~~the~~ ^{our} basic institution. If it is sound, America is sound. The success of our democracy as a way of life is ultimately reflected and gauged by its success in the home, and the quality of family life will, in the last analysis, determine the quality of our national life.

Let us have a look at the stability of the American home. Divorce in the United States has now reached an all-time peak, and it is the highest in the world. *Juvenal's satire of marriage and divorce in decadent Rome would be a perfect glove fit American Society* Paralleling the shocking increase in divorce in the United States is *9/1953* the equally shocking increase in juvenile delinquency. The United States Children's Bureau estimates that in 1951 about one million youth came to the attention of the police and that 350,000 boys and girls were brought into our juvenile courts. Since 1951 the numbers have increased alarmingly.

boy A broken home is in the first place evidence of a lost reverence for ~~basic~~ religious mandates and its first victims are the children. When parents fail in the disciplines of life how can their children, far less mature, be expected to succeed? The emotional pattern of the child's life is determined in the home. Only the secure family, grounded in basic religious loyalties, can raise children whose conduct will insure the social

stability of the nation. The primary responsibility ^{for} ~~is~~ strengthening the American home lies not with the church or with the school but with the parents in the home.

There are, of course, many economic factors and many grave unsettlements of life today, ^{principally} caused by war, which have contributed to the weakening of the American home. All this means that it is far more difficult to maintain a secure family life today than it was in olden days and that, therefore, greater demands must be made upon the individual, upon the inner spiritual strength of the individual - ^{and} man or woman. Greater wisdom is demanded, greater courage, greater idealism, greater sportsmanship to preserve for themselves and for society the one ^{indispensable} institution for human happiness - the home. For what profits it a man if he be a success in business, if he is a failure in the home; or for a woman if she is a success in whatever interests she may have, if she is a failure as a mother? One who fails as a husband and father or as a mother and wife fails in the most significant reaches of human life. And what profits it a nation, rich and powerful, if millions of its homes are torn by discord and become breeding places of twisted childhood personalities, of law breakers and malefactors.

Society as such must do its share to protect the home. Society must evolve a system of greater economic stability so that business cycles and prolonged unemployment do not put an unnecessary strain upon the home - strains which often men and women cannot bear because they are too great for them. Society must seek to avoid war because there is no more disruptive influence ^{as far as the home and family ties and standards} ~~in things~~ than war. Society should provide proper housing facilities and decent homes for families. Society should provide adequate education in preparation for family life - and social agencies to help men and women solve the problems confronting them.

-3-

But when all is said and done, the problem is primarily a personal, ^{spiritual} problem of the individuals concerned, and it cannot be unloaded on society or on government. The great effort must be made by men and women themselves, and they can make that effort only if they accept and acknowledge and live by a clear ^{moral} philosophy of life; if they accept a standard of values, a code of conduct, and live by it. When the mandates of tradition have broken down for men and women, then they must evolve or accept other mandates and abide by them and their disciplines. Without such voluntarily accepted codes of conduct binding upon themselves, they are lost. Even with proper housing and economic self-sufficiency and all the protected safeguards, ^{and underlying agencies} such a home will crack. ^{America needs religion in the home. We separated Church and State, and that was necessary and desirable. We are now} What holds true of the American way of life holds equally true of ^{in the process of separating Church and the home that is undesirable and may prove disastrous} civilization ^{Generally} in our day. For civilization to survive, it is clearly necessary to revise the mood and thought pattern of our age, and to recharge our world culture with new ^{spiritual} meaning and content. The crisis of our age is far more spiritual than economic. It is a crisis of ideas and beliefs. Were it mainly economic, our enormous and vastly accelerated engine of material production, our advanced technological skill, our new sources of power, and our increased facilities for transportation and distribution would have solved it before now. They are not solving it. They are contributing more and more to conflict, breakdown and chaos. The besetting fear of our age is not that of Malthus, that sufficient food may not be available for the world's expanding population. Rather is it the fear that, while food and water and all the desirable things of life may be abundant and near at hand, the human race, like Tantalus, will, because of some fatal perversity of fate, never be permitted to enjoy them.

Our age has passed beyond cynicism or sophistication. It is distraught, and not because its high hopes for scientific progress have not been realized.

Some Questions and Answers

How serious is the crime situation in the United States today? Plenty serious! Last year crime jumped 6% over the preceding year—increases were reflected in all crime categories except murder. Indeed, since 1950 crime has been outstripping population growth by a ratio of 4 to 1.

Are juveniles greatly involved? Unfortunately, yes. Of over 1,750,000 arrests recorded in 1953 by 1,174 cities, 8.4% were persons 17 years old or less and 14.7% were under 21. Of those involved in auto thefts, 53.6% were juveniles, and 29% of them weren't old enough to get a regular driver's license in most states.

Nearly half of the persons arrested for burglary were not yet 18—two thirds were under 16. And 50.6% of crimes against property were committed by persons under 21.

Are juvenile offenders mostly boys? Yes. Of all persons under 18 arrested in 1953 in the 1,174 cities, 87.8% were males.

These figures are supplied by one who should know—FBI Chief J. Edgar Hoover, as reported by International News Service. They do not make for happy reading, but they should be read and thought about, just the same.

Who is largely to blame? Parents, who "have the basic responsibility of teaching their children to be good citizens."

How can poor parents be educated to their responsibilities?

"In cases where youngsters have wantonly destroyed property," said Hoover, "I feel that parents should be held financially responsible. I venture to say such a requirement would change the attitude of many parents. Likewise, if a youthful offender is brought to court, his father and mother should also be present."

There are those who think we harp too much on the shortcomings of youth. Unfortunately, the youth of today will be the citizen of tomorrow. If he persists in thinking of law-breaking as a lark and vandalism as good fun, what kind of a citizen will he make?

How would you like to live next door to such a guy?