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Current Notes

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CURRENT NOTES

V. A. Leonard, Editor

Science, Government and Crime—Of certain interest to research workers in every area of criminology is an Executive order issued by the President on March 17, which directs the National Science Foundation to make studies of the scientific activities of the nation and to recommend to the President policies to strengthen the research effort and define the federal government's role in it. The foundation, over a period of time, is expected to become increasingly responsible for providing federal support for basic research carried on in universities and other nonprofit institutions, although other federal agencies will continue to carry on basic research which is closely related to their statutory missions.

The foundation will also study the effects of federal research support on the nation's educational institutions and recommend policies and procedures to promote the attainment of the federal research objectives while safeguarding the strength and independence of the educational institutions. The order directs the head of each agency engaged in research to make sure that its research programs reflect urgent needs and are carried on economically and with regard to the efficient use of scientific manpower. In this connection, the order provides a new method to facilitate the exchange of scientific equipment and facilities among federal agencies so as to avoid buying new equipment or building new facilities when another agency has unused equipment or facilities available.

An Interdepartmental Committee on Scientific Research is directed to "ensure that each Federal agency engaged directly in scientific research is kept informed of selected major equipment and facilities which could serve the needs of more than one agency" and each agency possessing such equipment and facilities is to be responsible for maintaining appropriate record to assist other agencies in arranging for

their joint use or exchange —PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION REVIEW, Spring 1954, Vol. XIV, N. 2.

Narcotics Study—A Citizens Committee appointed by Attorney General Edmund G. Brown of California a year ago has submitted its findings and recommendations concerning drug addiction and the illicit drug traffic. The report, which indicates fabulous profits in the narcotics traffic, cites Communist China, the Near East and Mexico as major sources of the illicit supply. It calls for stepped-up undercover work in foreign countries to curtail the influx and recommends a series of measures to handle the problem in California.

These measures would include establishment of a State Disposition Board to initiate out-patient clinics for treatment of addicts (available also to users of barbiturates, marijuana and habitual alcoholics); and quarantine of "incurables" in detention camps and areas, which might include out-patient clinics.

With respect to criminal penalties, the committee differentiates between three groups: addicts; addicts who peddle drugs to supply and support their addiction; and professional non-addict peddlers. Of the action of the first two groups, the report says: "It is primarily a psychological illness, and, only secondarily is it a legal or criminal problem . . . The general philosophy, therefore, should be that the management of narcotic addicts ought to be oriented in the direction of social rehabilitation and not that of punishment."—STATE GOVERNMENT, June, 1954.

RCMP's Anthony Retiring from Force—Assistant Commissioner M. F. E. Anthony of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, ended 36 years of service with that department in August when he officially retired. At that time,

he took over a new post, that of chief of police in Edmonton.

Commissioner Anthony is well known to law enforcement officials throughout the Western Hemisphere, and particularly to members of the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Joining the RCMP at the age of 15, he served in 1918-1919 in Siberia with the Royal Northwest Mounted Police Cavalry Division. On his return he was appointed a corporal in the RCMP, serving in Manitoba and Saskatchewan until 1927. In that year he was transferred to the customs enforcement division at the Manitoba international border, returning to the Mounties in 1932 when the customs enforcement agency was absorbed into the RCMP. Promotions to staff sergeant, sub-inspector, detective inspector and assistant director of the criminal investigation division rapidly followed. In May, 1950, he was appointed director of the criminal investigation branch for the entire force in Ottawa—THE POLICE CHIEF, July, 1954.

Juvenile Court Statistics 1950-1952—About 200 juvenile courts have sent in complete reports regularly for a number of years to the U. S. Children's Bureau. The number of courts currently reporting is much larger and has increased recently. In 1951 there were 458, and in 1952, 586 courts which sent in complete reports. An additional 245 courts reported in 1952 on official cases only. Three-fourths of all juvenile court cases were delinquency cases; more than half of these were handled unofficially without the filing of a petition for formal judicial hearing. The increase in delinquency cases exceeds the increase in the child population. By 1960, the child population 10-17 years of age (the predominant age group of delinquents) will be 40 percent higher than it was in 1952. A pertinent question—How will this population increase affect the future of volume of delinquency?

An estimated 385,000 children (or about 2 percent of all children in the U. S. aged 10-17) were dealt with by juvenile courts in delinquency cases in 1952. Most delinquent children brought to court were 14 years of age or older.

Boys are referred to courts mostly for stealing or malicious mischief. Such aggressive acts are more likely to come to a court's attention than are the behavior problems most frequently found among delinquent girls, such as ungovernable behavior, running away, and sex offenses.

One-third of the delinquent children were detained overnight or longer pending court hearing and one in every four of those detained were held in jails or police stations. An estimated 30,000 delinquent children are held in jails or police stations annually waiting for a court hearing. Another 70,000 are held in jails by police or other law enforcement agencies without referral to a juvenile court. However, some of these may be awaiting hearing in another court, such as criminal court.

Most frequent disposition of official delinquency cases was "probation"; most unofficial cases were "dismissed" or "adjusted". The disposition of boys' and girls' cases differed considerably. Dismissals or adjustments were higher for boys; commitments or referrals to agencies or institutions were more frequent for girls. This difference is attributable in part to the different reasons for which boys or girls are brought to court. Girls are usually referred because of sexual misconduct or related offenses. This is considered a more serious offense than stealing or malicious mischief, for which boys are most frequently referred.

In 1951, dependency and neglect cases increased for the first time since 1947, increasing at about the same rate as the child population. Children dealt with in dependency and neglect cases were much younger than those dealt with in delinquency cases. The age difference is to be expected from the difference in the nature of the two kinds of cases. The delinquent child comes to court because of anti-social behavior, the dependent or neglected child because of inadequate care or support by the parents—*Juvenile Court Statistics 1950-52*, Children's Bureau, U. S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Statistical Series No. 18, 1954.

Excerpts from *Federal Probation. Subcommittee on Delinquency Releases Reports on Hearings*—The United States Senate Subcommittee

to Investigate Juvenile Delinquency released in May Part I and Part II of the hearings at which federal, national and youth serving agencies testified. Part I, consisting of 302 pages, includes the hearings held in November 1953 and the 167 page Part II report gives the hearings held in January 1954. Part III of the hearings were released in June.

The hearings include testimony from authorities in the field of delinquency including Bertram Beck, director of the special juvenile delinquency project of the Children's Bureau; Dr. George Gardner, director of the Judge Baker Clinic at Boston; Dr. Sheldon Glueck, of the Harvard Law School, and his wife, Dr. Eleanor Glueck; and Judge Thomas D. Gill of the juvenile court at Hartford, Connecticut.

Copies of the hearings and the interim report may be obtained without charge from the Subcommittee's office, Suite 900 H. O. L. C., Building, 101 Indiana Avenue, N. W., Washington, D. C. The interim report of the Subcommittee was released in March.

Michigan Corrections Commission Names Robert H. Scott Director—Robert H. Scott, associate professor of police administration at Michigan State College, has been named director of Michigan's recently established six-member Corrections Commission. The Commission replaces the commissioner form of administration followed since 1948.

Scott received his bachelor of arts from Yale University and his law degree from Union University (Albany Law School). Before World War II he practiced law in New York for seven years and during the war taught military law and related subjects at the Provost Marshal General's School where he became chief of the department of law and administration. In 1948, he resigned from the Army to accept his present position with Michigan State College. He will serve as director of the Commission on a part-time basis until July at which time he will be on leave to devote full time to his new duties. As director, Scott will implement policies of the Commission and direct the operations of the Department which includes probation and parole as well as institutions. A feature of the new Michigan law is the creation of a Youth

Division which will be headed by an assistant director of corrections.

Children's Bureau Proposes New Juvenile Court Standards—A new set of proposed standards for courts dealing with children was issued in June by the United States Children's Bureau. They are contained in a publication, entitled, "Standards for Specialized Courts Dealing With Children" developed by the Bureau in cooperation with the National Probation and Parole Association and the National Council of Juvenile Court Judges. William H. Sheridan, consultant on juvenile delinquency to the Children's Bureau, directed preparation of the document.

The standards reflect greatly increased knowledge of child care as well as advances made in court practice, according to Mr. Sheridan. Application of these standards may lead to revisions in practice in juvenile courts and in statutes, he said. Many of the recommendations are standard practice, however, in certain juvenile courts, particularly those in urban areas throughout the country.

Although the juvenile court movement is more than 50 years old, Sheridan pointed out, differences of opinion continue to exist on what the function of such a court should be. Some have felt courts should operate broad programs for the treatment and care of children, similar to programs of public and private welfare agencies; others would either drastically limit or remove the court's treatment functions. The document attempts to define what treatment functions are appropriate to such courts and which are more appropriate to administrative agencies in the community—FEDERAL PROBATION, June, 1954.

Survey of Police Services for Youth—A study of police services for children and youth in 611 cities show that 50 percent of the cities have juvenile specialists in the police department. The proportion of police departments with juvenile specialists ranges from 100 per cent in cities over 500,000 population to 28 per cent in cities under 10,000. Cities in the west are more likely than cities elsewhere to assign police officers to special juvenile duty. The majority of departments use only male officers for this

work, but a substantial number (132) also assign policewomen for these duties. The number of juvenile officers ranges from one to eight per 100,000 population in the cities reporting. These and other statistics on police services for juveniles were compiled by the International Association of Chiefs of Police in cooperation with the United States Children's Bureau—*PUBLIC MANAGEMENT*, August, 1954.

The Passing of the Taxi-Dance Hall. Clyde B. Vedder of the University of Florida, writing in *SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL RESEARCH*, states in part: With the taxi-dance hall's decline an established fact, it is not difficult to list a few contributing factors toward that end. One factor, unheard of during the earlier days, has to do with fingerprinting. In Detroit, the police fingerprint the employers and managers when they apply for taxi-dance hall licenses, while in Los Angeles, the police fingerprint only prospective taxi-dancers. The New York police fingerprint both employers and taxi-dancers. Other factors would include the ending of the Prohibition Era, the gradual return of the saloon and cocktail lounge, and the concomitant emergence of the "B" girl, who solicits customers for drinks.

"The passing of the taxi-dance hall will be attended by few mourners", states Vedder. Successful taxi-dancers, who for the most part are both mercenary and predatory, are attracted to a social situation in which physically and socially handicapped men may be exploited. Taxi-dancers may assume the mores of the larger community only long enough to capitalize upon the humanitarian impulses of the patron, if, and when they occur. In addition to the social disorganization present in the milieu of of the taxi-dancer, there are factors which contribute to the personal disorganization of the girls who enter this profession.

The dictum of the veteran taxi-dancer, "you've got to cheat," is accepted as a matter of course by girls who remain in the taxi-dance hall. No longer may the taxi-dancer be depicted as the "good" girl forced to dance with "bad" men, but rather as a girl determined to exploit everyone connected with the establishment as

much as possible, and even today, the taxi-dance hall resembles its prototype of four decades ago, for in relation to society and the larger community, the taxi-dance hall is still found to be located on the periphery of the respectable, tolerated, but not condoned—From an article, *The Decline of the Taxi-Dance Hall*, by Clyde B. Vedder, University of Florida, appearing in *SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL RESEARCH*, July-August 1954, as a resume and a follow-up of a larger study by the same author, *An Analysis of the Taxi-dance Hall as a Social Institution with Special Reference to Los Angeles and Detroit* (Ph.D. dissertation, University of Southern California, 1947).

Training for Delinquency Control at the University of Minnesota—There is a growing demand for trained personnel at all levels by institutions and agencies responsible for the rehabilitation of juvenile delinquents. This demand creates pressures on institutions of higher learning to provide the required training. Two factors have lent insistence to these demands and pressures. First, juvenile delinquency has expanded into a major social problem. The number of offending children and youths coming before the courts is increasing. They commit a disproportionate share of serious offenses, particularly against property. Moreover, their treatment and rehabilitation at an early age will reduce materially the number of adult criminals. Secondly, the social and behavioral sciences have developed to a point where it is possible to define the type of training needed. Though much about delinquent behavior remains unknown, these sciences have yielded considerable insight into the forces that produce it and have developed practical procedures and techniques for modifying much of it.

In response to these demands, the University of Minnesota has developed an interdepartmental sequence to give students the groundwork for careers in the control of delinquency. The sequence is intended to meet the needs of those students who wish to prepare for graduate professional training as well as of those who wish to prepare for subprofessional careers in the field. Some students electing this sequence will

go on to the graduate schools of social work or sociology to prepare themselves for professional jobs in delinquency control. Others may discover aptitudes and interests that will lead them to prepare for graduate work in clinical psychology, education of handicapped children, or public administration. Still others, for whom a Bachelor's degree represents a terminal point of formal education, will take subprofessional positions, such as house managers in training schools.

Since the essential qualification for all workers, professional or subprofessional, in delinquency control is capacity to establish successful human relationships, the sequence is designed to give the student a broad base of liberal education rather than intensive technical training. However, students electing the sequence will get some technical training and an introduction to the realities of this human problem through work experience with delinquent children. Initially this experience will consist of an internship for approved men and women students, during the summer vacation between the junior and senior years, at the two state training schools for boys and girls operated by Minnesota Youth Conservation Commission.

To insure the necessary breadth of training, the courses have been selected from many colleges and departments, but the sequence will be administered by the Department of Sociology. It may be taken as a substitute for the major and minor sequences required for the B.A. degree. Interested students should address inquiries to the Department of Sociology. In view of the limited number of registrations that can be accepted, priority will be given to students who demonstrate special aptitude for this type of work.—From a Bulletin issued by The University of Minn.

Adult Probation: United Nations Analyzes Results of Adult Probation in Six Countries—An unlettered English youth, the legend goes, told the King of England that the latter, body and soul, was worth only twenty-nine pieces of silver. The young man got away with it—perhaps because that was before the invention of a “ris-

ing cost-of-living.” Today a single inmate of an English prison costs the nation around £230 (US \$644) a year, while the corresponding costs in the United States of America exceed \$900, according to a study published recently by the United Nations on “Practical Results and Financial Aspects of Adult Probation in Selected Countries.”

The study has been prepared by Dr. Max Grünhut, Reader in Criminology at Oxford University, in co-operation with the Department of Social Affairs of the UN Secretariat. It reviews the working of the system of adult probation in the United Kingdom, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, the Netherlands and the United States, and is complementary to a comprehensive UN study on “Probation and Related Measures” published in 1951.

The Public's Attitude

Public opinion, the study notes, frequently looks upon probation as a soft treatment, which might at best be conceded as an expedient for dealing with juvenile delinquents. But the experience in the countries surveyed shows that the system has come to be recognized as a remedial method for adult offenders also, despite the fact that adults are more sensitive to intrusion in their personal affairs and that the “Rule of Law” insists that certain prescribed limits be respected.

Adult probation is one of the most important aims of a new departure in penal policy, the study observes; and like any other departure from the standard this, too, has to be evaluated by its results. The crucial test of the system, it adds, is its “results in terms of successful social adjustment or of failures expressed by further social maladjustments, lawlessness, re-convictions and sentences.”

Classic Success Rate

Comparative figures in this respect for the different countries studied reveal that generally speaking between 70 and 80 percent of adults put on probation successfully complete their probationary period. In Copenhagen, ten percent of the men and five percent of the women put on probation committed offenses within the

first three months of their term, and a further 35 percent of the men and 24 percent of the women acted likewise during further stages of their probationary period.

However it is the probationer's conduct after the termination of probation which is more important than his immediate reaction during treatment, the study points out. In this respect England and Wales have the very encouraging proportion of 70 percent of the offenders without further court appearance—a "classic success rate claimed on behalf of any form of penal and correctional treatment." A comprehensive series of "follow-up" studies in New Jersey indicate that 26 percent of the former probationers showed marked improvement in their social adjustments and only eight percent a marked deterioration.

Women Do Better than Men

The figures collected in the study reveal some further interesting facts. One of them is that, as a rule, a larger proportion of women complete their probationary period satisfactorily than men, and that the reconviction rate is lower among women. Secondly, according to English experience, success rates both during and after probation increase with higher age groups. The same seems to be true in the Netherlands, the State of Wisconsin and the U. S. generally. Figures are about even in New York, and reverse themselves in Massachusetts.

The study traces the development of adult probation within the framework of the different legal systems of the countries surveyed and marks that, in spite of the difficulty in arriving at definitive conclusions of universal application, certain generalizations can be made. For instance, it is generally agreed that a proper handling of any system of probation requires two essentials: first, a proper selection of offenders to be put on probation and, secondly, personal supervision by a probation officer or other qualified social worker.

Commonsense and Daily Practice

The study also brings up the question of how to forecast reliably the possible results of adult probation. Its conclusions in this respect are: (1) No scientific method can be recommended at the moment for the selection of offenders deemed suitable for probation. Commonsense experience, applied in daily practice, has yet to be collected, sifted and critically examined. (2) Statistical prediction, based on research into past probationary cases, can give individual countries an answer to the question of what risks are involved in making further groups of offenders eligible for probation.

Results the Deciding Factor

Finally, turning to the financial aspects of adult probation, the study says that "probation distinguishes itself favorably from detention in prison and other forms of institutional treatment." It emphasizes, however, that practical results rather than considerations of economy should be the deciding factor in adopting or extending the system in any country. It quotes the 1949 report of the New York Department of Correction which very pertinently asked the question: "Who can compute the value to society of offenders rehabilitated and families kept together?"

"Probation is a method of treating an offender in the open community," the study concludes. "It offers an opportunity, albeit within a regulated framework, to the probationer to undertake his share of economic responsibilities on an equal basis with other members of the community."

Note: Practical Results and Financial Aspects of Adult Probation in Selected Countries, published by the Division of Social Welfare of the UN Department of Social Affairs; price \$0.75, or the equivalent in local currencies; may be ordered through UN sales agents, in the United States from International Documents Service, Columbia University Press, 2960 Broadway, New York 27, N. Y.—From U. N. Department of Public Information.