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Current Notes

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CURRENT NOTES

V. A. Leonard, *Editor*

Noted Criminologist Retires—Professor Donald R. Taft retired on August 31, 1955, after 28 years of distinguished scholarship and teaching at the University of Illinois. A banquet honoring Professor Taft was given by the Illinois Academy of Criminology during its Spring Conference at Robert Allerton House, and the Department of Sociology and Anthropology scheduled its dinner in his honor for September 23. Professor Taft will spend the first half-year of his retirement in Turkey, where he will be engaged in teaching and research in criminology at the invitation of the Turkish government. Upon his return from Turkey, Professor Taft will be available for a teaching or research position for the 1956-57 academic year.

The department's work in the Criminology-Penology-Delinquency field will be carried on by Professor Daniel Glaser, who came to the university in 1954, and by Professor Ralph W. England, who enters service at the university this fall with the rank of Assistant Professor. Professor England comes from the University of Pennsylvania where he served as instructor in sociology since 1947. He has also served as expert consultant on prison labor for the United Nations, and attended the summer 1955 Geneva meetings of the UN on the treatment of offenders.—From Professor J. E. Hulett, Jr., Chairman, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Illinois, Urbana.

Juvenile Delinquency and Working Mothers—(The author of the following note is a graduate of the School of Law—1951—in the University of Leyden, Holland. He is now, as a Fulbright Scholar, a candidate for the Ph.D. degree in Yale University. The note was originally published in "406 News", a publication of the International Student Center at Yale. He has been appointed Fellow in Columbia University for 1955-1956.—ED.)

The problem of juvenile delinquency has risen to an alarming degree since the second World War. In Europe, especially in those countries which directly suffered because of the war, it is clear that there is a correlation between post-war conditions and juvenile delinquency.

In Germany, France and Italy in particular, there has been an intensification of this problem. A kind of sublimation was found in France by the so-called "existentialists", gangs of youngsters who tried to imitate the existentialism of Jean Paul Sartre by behaving and dressing themselves in a careless, abandoned, devil-may-care manner. In their mental attitudes, however, they had nothing in common with the humanistic ideas of Sartre. In contrast to the kind of sublimation found in France, in England there was the tendency of the so-called "Edwardian youngsters" to find sublimation in carelessly spending their money and time in order to dress lavishly and ostentatiously.

Both juvenile delinquency and these manifestations indicate a feeling of instability in a world full of international tension, economic distress and accompanying social dislocation. The social adjustment of these youngsters has not successfully kept pace with their emotional, physical and intellectual development. The environment is one of the main factors in inhibiting personality development. The solution to many of the delinquents' mental conflicts is often found in the committal of delinquent acts. He is resentful and antagonistic toward society's conceptions of right and proper behaviour.

The problem in the United States is not only in the social-economic sphere. Many juvenile delinquents come from the middle-income families. The peculiarity is that it is only in Sweden and in the United States—

both countries having a relatively high standard of living and not directly influenced by material war damage—that this delinquency has an abnormal character. The “thrill” of committing delinquent acts is often prevalent. The motive often is not economic.

In a country like the United States, in contrast with most European countries, there are different factors contributing to juvenile delinquency, such as the heterogeneous and racial elements. The fact that many immigrants of this country came from cultures and traditions different from those of the United States makes the process of adaptation to their new environment difficult. Nevertheless the delinquency of the children of first-generation immigrants, the so-called second-generation is, in comparison, lower than that of the native children.

What is the reason for this abnormal delinquency?

Can it be that in a society of high material living standards, even of luxury, family bounds break down, and traditional “cultural” forms tend to disintegrate? Delinquency then must not be considered as a phenomenon restricted to “the poor”.

If there not a danger that technical science will master the American people, instead of remaining their servant?

In trying to prevent and control juvenile delinquency it is necessary to know what measures ought to be taken. One of the factors which needs to be taken into consideration is the tragedy that with the growth of equality between men and women, giving rise as it so often does in the United States and elsewhere to women pursuing a career after their marriage, there has been a loosening of family ties. A patriarchal or a matriarchal family is not necessary, but in these societies the primary functions of the parents are gradually being taken over by the church and the schools, institutions which paradoxically are still blamed for the small degree of responsibility they take where children are concerned.

The main responsibility rests upon the mother and the father; no teacher or minister can substitute for them. In the Netherlands, where there also has been a marked increase of

juvenile delinquency, and parents can be compelled by law to show a greater responsibility toward their children. This is made possible, simply because public opinion favors the sharp distinction between the work of the mother and the father. That means, of course, that Mrs. Holland shall wash more dishes than her sister Mrs. America, whose husband is expected to help in the kitchen and do other household chores.

A mother, however, who earns a living and thereby brings extra money into the home—notwithstanding that this money is often used for a better education for the children—forgets that all the hours spent outside her home, are stealing the best and impressionistic years of her children, who should occupy first place in her attention.—Philippe F. Scholten

First UN Congress on Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders—With the more than 500 delegates acclaiming the results achieved as holding “great promise for contributing to the cause of human welfare,” the first United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders was concluded on Saturday, 3 September, in Geneva. The delegates adopted a resolution which expressed the opinion that the Congress had been a significant success.

In formally closing the two-week session, Congress President Edouard de Steiger of Switzerland stressed that the delegates could be proud of their achievements, having adopted minimum rules on the treatment of prisoners, rules on the recruitment of prison personnel, a nine-point recommendation on “open institutions”—prisons without bars, locks or other security measures—rules on prison labor, and recommendations on the prevention of juvenile delinquency. The resolutions adopted, he said, were evidence of the admirable harmony with which delegates had contributed to the common endeavor. Earlier, the Congress completed examination of recommendations in the field of prevention of juvenile delinquency by adopting recommendations on research relating to delinquency causes, prediction and prevention.

On future UN action in this field, the Con-

gress gave its unanimous approval to a resolution calling the attention of the Secretary-General to the need for maintaining the priority given this problem in the program of work of the Social Commission, and requesting him to inform that Commission of the following suggestions, with a view to their inclusion in the social defense program:

(a) That a study be made of methods used for the prevention of juvenile delinquency for the purpose of assessing the practical results of these methods both direct and indirect;

(b) That the help of non-governmental organizations with special knowledge in this field be sought in this connection, in accordance with resolution 155 C (VII) of the Economic and Social Council;

(c) That UN regional and consultative groups and seminars continue to devote attention to various aspects of juvenile delinquency; and

(d) That when organizing forthcoming congresses, conferences or seminars the organizations concerned, taking into account the problems facing different regions of the world, should select clearly defined topics allowing for a thorough study and a useful comparison of the experience acquired in various countries.

The resolution was presented by Thorsten Sellin (United States), General Rapporteur of the Congress, and amended jointly by Belgium, Denmark, France, the Holy See, Netherlands and Switzerland.

The Congress also adopted a resolution on technical assistance which expresses the hope that the United Nations will furnish assistance to those governments requesting it in order to facilitate implementation of the rules adopted by the conference.—From the United Nations Information Center, Geneva.

New Form Developed to Test Honesty of Job Applicants—An "honesty evaluator" recently tested in Chicago and elsewhere in the area, was placed on the market recently by one of the nation's top lie-detection organizations. John E. Reid and Associates began at that time the distribution of a unique employment application form designed to appraise the trust-

worthiness of persons who apply for jobs where they have an opportunity to steal.

The honesty evaluator is not intended for persons on the job, said John E. Reid, director of the organization, but is designed only for examining new applicants. The evaluator, he said, consists of 158 questions, 42 of them similar to those found on standard employment questionnaires. By examining the total answer pattern to the remaining 116 key questions, he said, a skilled interpreter can assess the reliability of the applicant. Answers on the form will be evaluated by specially trained persons, he said, and an applicant judged unreliable will have an opportunity to take a polygraph examination if he requests it.

A consultant of Mr. Reid's in developing the new form was Fred E. Inbau, Northwestern law professor, who also collaborated with Mr. Reid in authoring the book "Lie Detection and Criminal Interrogation," one of the standard works in those fields. Mr. Reid said that the new service, copyrighted as the Reid Report, will be available first through his firm's offices in Chicago and at a later date through offices in New York and San Francisco. The principal users, he believes, will be financial institutions, retail businesses and industrial firms, because many organizations in those fields, already use the polygraph for pre-employment tests and periodic employee examinations—News Release.

Arson Investigation Courses and Seminars—The summer months of 1955 were highlighted by increased activity in the field of training for arson investigation. Among the courses and seminars offered were:

June 20-24. Fire and Arson Investigation Short Course. To be held at the University of California, Berkeley, California. Director: T. S. Ward, Supervisor of Fire Training, State Department of Education, Sacramento, California.

June 27-July 1. Fire and Arson Investigation Short Course. To be held at the University of California, Los Angeles, California. Director: T. S. Ward, Supervisor of Fire Training, State

Department of Education, Sacramento, California.

July 11-12. Georgia State Fire College. Arson Investigation Course. Atlanta, Georgia. Director: Harry Phillips, Director, Vocational Service, State Department of Education, 624 Killian Street, Atlanta, Georgia.

July 12-15. Louisiana State Fire Marshal's Fourth Annual Arson and Fire Prevention Conference. Roosevelt Hotel, New Orleans, Louisiana. Director: Sidney S. Bowman, State Fire Marshal, State Fire Marshal Department, New Orleans 16, La.

August 1-5. Third Annual Conference on Modern Methods in Law Enforcement—Problems in Criminal Law, Criminology, and Police Science. To be held at New York University, New York City, N. Y. Conference Chairman: Donal E. J. MacNamara. Information may be obtained from: Graduate School of Public Administration and Social Service, New York University, Washington Square, New York 3, New York.

August 31-Sept. 2. Arson Detection and Investigation Seminar. To be held at University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida. Seminar Coordinator: John E. Miklos, Head, Public Service Training Center, General Extension Division of Florida, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.

Sept. 12-16. Second Annual Short Course For Arson Investigators. To be held at The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio. For information contact Wayne C. Jenkins, Assistant Director, Room 111, Wyandotte Building, 21 West Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio.

—From News Letter, International Association of Arson Investigators, April-May-June, 1955, edited by Richard C. Steinmetz, Chief Special Agent, Mutual Investigation Bureau, and President of the IAAI.

California Gives Statutory Recognition to Bureau of Criminal Statistics—Among the statutes passed by the 1955 session of the California State Legislature and signed by the Governor to become effective September 7, 1955, is an act giving statutory recognition to the Bureau of Criminal Statistics. The act is

based upon the Uniform Criminal Statistics Act adopted by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws.

The Bureau of Criminal Statistics in the California State Department of Justice, has, for the past ten years, been operating under statutory provisions originally enacted in 1929 providing for employment of a statistician in the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation who should gather data relative to the nature and extent of crime and the dispositions of persons arrested; and rather generalized mandates to the State Departments of Corrections and the Youth Authority that they likewise study certain phases of criminal law and delinquency.

While the Bureau had been recognized as an entity for budgetary purposes its actual existence has been by administrative order in the Department of Justice and by agreement between the Attorney General as Director of the Department of Justice and the Directors of the Departments of Corrections and the Youth Authority that the Bureau should serve as statistical and research agency for all three departments.

The new act was adapted from the uniform act without basic alteration, although some minor changes were made to fit the California situation. It was sponsored by the Attorney General and met with no real opposition in its passage through the legislature.

It is not anticipated that the new act will cause any particular changes in the functions or operations of the Bureau. It will place the Bureau upon a sounder legal foundation.

It is to be hoped that the action of the California legislature may serve as encouragement to other states toward their adoption of the Uniform Act.

A copy of the Act follows. It was prepared in the Bureau of Criminal Statistics.

Assembly Bill No. 728—CHAPTER 1128
An act to add Title 3 to Part 4 of the Penal Code and to repeal Sections 11109, 11110, 11111, 11113, and 11114 of said code, relating to a Uniform Criminal Statistics Act, based upon the uniform act adopted by the National Con-

ference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws.

[Approved by Governor June 18, 1955. Filed with Secretary of State June 20, 1955.]

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Title 3 is added to Part 4 of the Penal Code, to read:

TITLE 3. CRIMINAL STATISTICS

CHAPTER 1. BUREAU OF CRIMINAL STATISTICS Article 1. Administration

13000. There is in the Department of Justice a Bureau of Criminal Statistics.

13001. The bureau shall be supervised by a Chief, Bureau of Criminal Statistics, who shall be a person with statistical training and experience and possessing a good knowledge of the problems of criminal law enforcement and administration and penal and correctional institutions and methods.

The Attorney General shall appoint the chief and employees of the bureau, subject to provisions of the State Civil Service Act.

The tenure and status of the chief and employees of the bureau, as heretofore constituted, shall not be affected by the enactment of this title.

Article 2. Duties of the Bureau

13010. It shall be the duty of the bureau:

(a) To collect data necessary for the work of the bureau, from all persons and agencies mentioned in Section 13020 and from any other appropriate source;

(b) To prepare and distribute to all such persons and agencies, cards or other forms used in reporting data to the bureau. Such cards or forms may, in addition to other items, include items of information needed by federal bureaus or departments engaged in the development of national and uniform criminal statistics;

(c) To recommend the form and content of records which must be kept by such persons and agencies in order to insure the correct reporting of data to the bureau;

(d) To instruct such persons and agencies in

the installation, maintenance, and use of such records and in the reporting of data therefrom to the bureau;

(e) To process, tabulate, analyze and interpret the data collected from such persons and agencies;

(f) To supply, at their request, to federal bureaus or departments engaged in the collection of national criminal statistics data they need from this State; and

(g) To present to the Governor, on or before July 1st, a printed annual report containing the criminal statistics of the preceding calendar year and to present at such other times as the Attorney General may approve reports on special aspects of criminal statistics. A sufficient number of copies of all reports shall be printed or otherwise prepared to enable the Attorney General to send a copy to all public officials in the State dealing with criminals and to distribute them generally in channels where they will add to the public enlightenment.

13011. The bureau may serve as statistical and research agency to the Department of Corrections, the Adult Authority, the Board of Corrections, the Department of the Youth Authority and the Board of Trustees of the California Institution for Women.

13012. The annual report of the chief provided for in Section 13010 shall contain statistics showing:

(a) The amount and the types of offenses known to the public authorities;

(b) The personal and social characteristics of criminals and delinquents; and

(c) The administrative actions taken by law enforcement, judicial, penal and correctional agencies or institutions in dealing with criminals or delinquents.

It shall be the duty of the chief to give adequate interpretation of such statistics and so to present the information that it may be of value in guiding the policies of the Legislature and of those in charge of the apprehension, prosecution and treatment of the criminals and delinquents, or concerned with the prevention of crime and delinquency. The report shall include also statistics which are comparable with national uniform criminal statistics published by

federal bureaus or departments heretofore mentioned.

Article 3. Duties of Public Agencies and Officers
13020. It shall be the duty of every constable, city marshal, chief of police, railroad and steamship police, sheriff, coroner, district attorney, city attorney and city prosecutor having criminal jurisdiction, probation officer, the Department of Justice, Department of Corrections, Adult Authority, Department of the Youth Authority, and the Board of Trustees of the California Institution for Women, Department of Mental Hygiene, Department of Public Health, Department of Social Welfare, State Fire Marshal, Liquor Control Administrator, and every other person or agency dealing with crimes or criminals or with delinquency or delinquents, when requested by the Attorney General:

(a) To install and maintain records needed for the correct reporting of statistical data required by the bureau;

(b) To report statistical data to the bureau at such times and in such manner as the Attorney General prescribes;

(c) To give to the Attorney General, or his accredited agent, access to statistical data for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this title.

Article 4. Repeal

13030. Sections 11109, 11110, 11111, 11113, and 11114 of the Penal Code are hereby repealed.—From Mr. Fred A. Knoles, Deputy Chief, State Bureau of Criminal Statistics, Sacramento, Cal.

Children's Bureau Names Consultant and Offers Service to Police Agencies—A consultation service to police departments who want to strengthen their services for juvenile delinquency prevention now is being offered by the Children's Bureau, Department of Health, Education and Welfare. Heading up the service is a former police officer, Frederic F. Schneidewind, who brings more than nine years all-around police experience to his new job. He formerly served under Chief John Holstrom in the Berkeley, California, Police Department

from 1942-51, and in the San Francisco County Sheriff's Department, San Francisco, from 1940-42 with some leave for service with the Army in the Pacific Theater of Operations.

Schneidewind left the Berkeley Police Department to accept an appointment with the California Youth Authority where for four years he was the consultant on Juvenile Control. As such, he provided consultation services to California law enforcement agencies relating to the organization, administration and operations of a juvenile bureau, and of problems relating to the general field of delinquency prevention and juvenile control. Schneidewind received his A. B. degree in Criminology at the University of California, and has also undertaken considerable graduate study at the same school under O. W. Wilson and Austin H. MacCormick.

The Division of Juvenile Delinquency Service was established by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare to assist state and local communities on matters concerned with juvenile delinquency. The Division will provide consultation services to police, probation, courts and to training schools. The Division will also provide assistance for training of personnel working in these fields as well as having a branch devoted to community organization and planning. Schneidewind will be available for consultation services to chiefs of police and other officials desiring to further increase their efficiency in methods of juvenile control. Any chief desiring the services of the Division should write to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Children's Bureau, Washington 25, D. C.—THE POLICE-CHIEF, August 1955.

Prisoners in State and Federal Institutions.—A total of 182,051 prisoners were serving sentences in State and Federal prisons and reformatories for adult offenders at the close of 1954. This number represents an increase of 9,322, or 5.4 percent, over those confined a year earlier, and constitutes the highest year-end prison population since the uniform series of prisoner figures was initiated at the end of 1939.

But even with prisoners at an all-time high, their number in relation to the population of the

United States continued small. Only 114 persons per 100,000 of the civilian population were serving sentences in State and Federal prisons on December 31, 1954. While this ratio is greater than in any year since 1942, it is nonetheless smaller than the 137, 131, and 125 per 100,000, respectively, serving sentences in these institutions at the ends of 1939, 1940, and 1941.

The rise in prison population in 1954 was proportionately greater in State than in Federal institutions. Prisoners in State institutions numbered 162,048 at the end of 1954, up from the previous year by 8,682, or 5.7 percent. In Federal institutions the population rose to 20,003, an increase of 640, or 3.3 percent.

Regional increases—Each of the four geographical regions showed an increase in State prisoners confined: The South and West both registered increases of 7.0 percent; the North Central States, 5.2 percent; and the Northeast, 3.0 percent. The greatest relative State increase in prison population occurred in Wyoming, 21.6 percent. Next was Arkansas with 13.3 percent; then Rhode Island, with 12.5; Louisiana, 12.2; Florida, 12.0; Missouri, 11.8; and Colorado, 11.6. In only nine States did the prison population decrease, with New Hampshire showing proportionately the greatest drop, 12.4 percent.

Court commitments rise 9.1 percent—Court commitments to State and Federal institutions increased in 1954 even more sharply than did the number of prisoners confined. New prisoners received from the courts numbered 79,946 in 1954, as compared to 73,299 in 1953—an increase of 6,647, or 9.1 percent.

By regions, court commitments to State institutions rose 12.5 percent in the South; 12.1 percent in the North Central States; 11.4 percent in the Northeast and 5.4 percent in the West. The individual States with the most notable increases in court commitments were Pennsylvania with a 39.2 percent increase; Idaho with 34.7 percent; Mississippi, 34.1; Wyoming, 29.8; Delaware and Minnesota, each with 22.5; Florida, 22.1; Arkansas, 21.9; Kentucky, 21.6; and Tennessee, 21.4.

Female prisoners—Both female prisoners under sentence and those received from court increased in 1954, but neither increase was as great proportionally as for male prisoners. Thus the wide disparity between the representation of males and females among prisoners increased slightly. Only 3.8 percent of prisoners in State and Federal institutions at the year's end, and only 4.9 percent of those committed to these institutions by the courts were females. Of the female prisoners committed to State and Federal institutions during the year, about half—49.6 percent—were received into the institutions of only six States and the Federal Government. These, in order, were the Federal Government with 582; New York with 358; Maryland, 246; California, 229; Alabama, 189; Massachusetts, 178; and Ohio, 171.

Prisoners paroled—Prisoners released from State institutions in 1954 numbered 61,441, of which paroles accounted for 33,551, or 54.6 percent, about the same proportion as in 1953.

Of the four regions, the Northeast used parole most extensively; 75.9 percent of its releases were by parole. Of the individual States in this area, New Hampshire led percentage-wise, with an 87.4 percent use of parole, whereas adjoining Vermont used it the least—in only 17.4 percent of its releases. The West almost equalled the Northeast in the use of parole; 73.8 percent of its releases were paroles. Washington State, as in previous years, led the United States as well as the West, with paroles constituting 99.0 percent of its releases. In the North Central States, 66.0 percent of releases were by parole, and in the South, only 29.0 percent.

Prisoners in individual institutions—A table shows for each individual Federal and State institution, or, for certain States, correctional systems, the number of prisoners received from court during 1954 and the number confined at the end of the year. Other tables present for the first time State component totals for the court-commitment and prison-population figures.—NATIONAL PRISONER STATISTICS, July 1955, Federal Bureau of Prisons. Washington, D. C.