

Confusion of Adults Reflected In Doings of Today's Youngsters

Editor's Note: President Milton S. Eisenhower of Pennsylvania State college and outstanding members of his faculty have written a series of articles discussing "Teenage Troubles." Following is the second article, written by a professor of family relationships.

By WILLIAM M. SMITH JR., State College, Pa. — (U.P.)

"What will they think of next?" This question from one parent of a teen-ager to another is nothing new. Even the Greeks probably had a word for it. And caught in dilemmas like those of parents today, they probably had words about it, too.

"What is the world coming to?"

"Young people are so irresponsible!"

Counter Charges Made On and on ring the echoes. And from the other generation come counter-charges.

"Our parents don't trust us."

"Why don't they treat us like grown-ups?"

Family life seems to go along in familiar paths until suddenly yesterday's child—today's high schooler—gets into one kind of trouble or another. Those who have never lived with children blame the parents. Parents point accusing fingers at the school. Everyone blames everyone else but himself.

Some parents feel that they are bearing the burden of responsibility for their children's actions. They've done the best they know how and that appears to have been too little when trouble hit.

No Short-Hand Rules

There are no short-hand rules or recipes which can be applied. But parents can do some checking up on the weather conditions—the "climate" of the home. These are suggestions for clearing the atmosphere around the house when a tempest, age 10 plus, is raging.

1. Are you trying to understand your children? Or have you thrown up your hands in desperation and decided that "boys will be boys?" Young people have the same basic needs that adults have but they sometimes make reasonable demands in unreasonable ways. Finding out what's really back of their attitudes, their behavior, their demands is not easy but is rewarding in terms of your own attitudes and the family's well-being. It's easier to relax if you know the rules.

Check Associates

2. Do you know what your youngster's associates demand as a price for acceptance? Young people, as adults, want to be accepted by a group and want desperately to know what to do in social situations. It takes time and patience but again it's important even for busy parents to learn what other young folks

expect of your flesh and blood.

3. Have you faced the fact that young people are confused about what is best or right to do because they find so much adult confusion? Prejudices, ideas about honesty and fair play, trust or distrust, respect for others—these are not taught by parental preaching. They become part of the young person's

set of values as he has experienced, them in his relationships at home more than anywhere else.

There is a keen need in all communities today—first, for families to build more shared experiences; and second, for parents to pool their thinking and to set about learning what the new generation is really like.

Most Parents Need Help, Not Punishment, Members Of Panel Here Conclude

By far the largest number of parents of delinquent children need help rather than punishment, it was emphasized during a panel discussion of parent-punishment measures at a meeting of the advisory committee of the juvenile court Monday evening.

Another point brought out was that there are very few instances in which existing state and city laws providing for parent-punishment have been invoked. Robert Duncan, Medford attorney was moderator of the panel.

Members were Dr. Arthur Kreisman of Southern Oregon College and an Ashland city councilman; Alf Mekvold, Jackson county school superintendent; Mrs. Lloyd Bransford, Medford parent and former social service worker; Mrs. W. G. Ardry, chairman of the committee studying the subject, and H. K. Hanna, circuit and juvenile judge for Jackson county.

Opinion Not Crystallized

Each of the participants who said their opinions on the matter had not entirely crystallized as yet, quoted a 10-year study of the subject made by Judge Paul W. Alexander of Toledo, O. A parent-punishment law there resulted in punishment of 502 parents, of which 17 per cent were finally imprisoned. This report classifies parents of delinquent children in five categories—runaways who deliberately leave children to their own devices, vicious parents who deliberately expose their children to crime, aiders and abettors, triangular (those who have extramarital affairs), and inadequate parents who comprise the majority and who are not giving their children adequate moral and ethical training.

Dr. Kreisman stated an ordinance had been passed in Ashland about a month ago providing punishment for persons causing, or allowing a child to become delinquent.

He stated the ordinance has not yet been used. It was not the intent of the council, he said, to punish parents for revenge or for public example, but rather to make parents realize their responsibilities. He stated the Ashland council realizes the ordinance could not be applied to

all parents and that prosecution would be difficult, but they felt it might be used as a means of urging better cooperation in cases of repeated offenders.

Mekvold stated he felt it was easy to jump to the conclusion that all parents should be punished, but when applied to individual cases it is a different matter. From his experience as secretary of the non-high school board, which handles truancy problems of children from non-high school districts, he stated it had been found circumstances in individual cases made it useless to prosecute under state laws now in effect. He said he felt it would be inadvisable to pass further laws unless enforcement were feasible.

There is no record of parents having been prosecuted by the non-high board under the state law, he stated, since the board had felt neither the law, the child nor the parent could be helped by such a prosecution. He also pointed out that children today are faced with problems they have never had before, with commercialized entertainment, "hot rods," and so on, and he felt endeavors should be made to clean up such fields as literature.

Case Workers Needed Mrs. Bransford said she felt it is far better to have adequate trained case workers to offer individualized help and supervision, rather than punishment laws which antagonize parents.

Mrs. Ardry quoted Judge Alexander's study to the effect that children of parents brought into the court for punishment had not been helped, and in some cases had been harmed.

Judge Hanna explained that the state law is a criminal statute and parents punished under it come before a criminal court. He stated he felt strongly they should never be punished through the juvenile court, which is attempting to enlist cooperation of parents toward rehabilitation of the child.

"During the entire time I have been juvenile judge I have never been confronted with a parent who has not been willing to cooperate," Judge Hanna stated. "The parents have all been truly sorry, puzzled by the fact the child has become delinquent and were looking for help," he continued.

Cites Publicity Disadvantage Another point Judge Hanna emphasized is that it is a national policy not to publish names of delinquent children, but that if parents are brought before a criminal court to be punished full publicity would be given the case with resultant harm to the child. He stated the philosophy of a juvenile court is that the child needs help, protection and care.

Various aspects of the matter were presented by the audience, including need for more adequate visiting nurse and visiting teacher services in the schools and control of literature on the newstands. The Rev. Stanley Keller, president of the Jackson County Council for Children and Youth, summarized by stating he felt enforcement of an ordinance so vague, which did not apply to all, and which does not show who would be the judge, would be difficult.

Other business at the meeting

Luxury Tissue at a Budget Price!

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FOUR-STAR PLAYMATE—Gen. James A. Van Fleet, commanding general of the U. S. 8th Army, seems to be enjoying his young Korean "passenger" as they watch entertainment at the Columbian Children's Home in Seoul, Korea. Gen. Van Fleet and other United Nations officials visited the home to present \$11,000 worth of clothing purchased by the Far East chaplains with money contributed by the U. S. 3rd Army.

As We Live

By ELIZABETH HURLOCK, PH.D.

YOU ARE NEVER TOO OLD TO MARRY

(Q) "I am a little more than 60 years old and lead an active life. I don't drink or smoke. I belong to a church and attend regularly. While I am not rich, I own three houses, one I live in and the other two I rent, and I have some money in the bank. But I am lonely. I would like to get married but do you think I should at my age?"

L. M. (A) Of course you should marry if you find a person you love and if you and she have congenial interests. Why face a lonely old age when you have all that is needed to be happy and make someone else happy?

A person is never too old to marry, though many people believe they are. If you feel that age is against you, and you are in doubt about the wisdom of marrying at your age, you are likely to put up mental barriers that will keep you from finding any one you want to marry.

Look at the problem in a common-sense way and see what you have to win or lose by marrying at your age. On the minus side, it means taking on the responsibility of supporting another person but that should not worry you as you are well fixed. It also means making adjustments in the pattern of your life which may be pretty well set by now.

Naturally, if you marry, you must expect to change the way you do some things. You cannot do everything in your own way when you are married as you can when you are single. But, making adjustments is good for you. It keeps you from getting into a too deep rut, and that is what makes a person old before his time.

Have Lot To Gain On the plus side, you have a lot to gain by marriage. You will have the constant companionship of a congenial person, you will have someone to make a comfortable, happy home for you, you will have someone to take care of you if you are not well, and you will never really be lonely when there is someone around constantly. Don't these

included a report of the work done thus far by John Schapps of the National Parole and Probation Association on the detention survey, and endorsement of the juvenile court budget to be presented to the county court.

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409 Students Sign For SOC's Spring Term on 1st Day

Ashland—First day enrollment as the spring term opened Monday at Southern Oregon college totalled 409 students, according to Mrs. Mabel W. Winston, registrar. Registration will continue through April 7.

Enrollment is down one per cent from the first day figures of the winter term, Mrs. Winston said. She expressed pleasure with the relatively heavy opening registration, noting that in past years, spring quarter figures dropped off considerably as students accepted employment in the busy spring months.

Classes Resume

Classes began Tuesday as the normal college routine was resumed following a four-day recess. Wednesday's night classes will include contemporary problems offered by Dr. Donald A. MacDougall, assistant professor of social science, beginning at 7 p.m. in Room 111 of the library building; and social dance directed by Beverley Bennett, instructor in physical education, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in Memorial court.

Wolves To Be Targets Of Aerial Operation

Juneau, Alaska — (U.P.) — An aerial operation to kill wolves which have been feeding on Arctic caribou herds has begun in the Colville river area north of the Brooks range in northern Alaska.

The wolf hunters have set up headquarters at Umiat, 750 air miles northwest of here. The hunt will continue until about the middle of May, Maurice Kelly, predator control supervisor of the fish and wildlife service, said.

Kelly, who will go to Umiat

about April 1, said caribou have assumed increasing importance to natives of the area because of a reindeer shortage.



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