

Crimes by Juveniles Not Uncontrollable Problem, Director of FBI Maintains

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Written for the United Press

Washington —(U.P.)— In the absence of complete records, the full story of juvenile crime is not available. Clear trends are revealed each year, however, in the statistics submitted under the FBI's uniform crime reporting program.

In 1954, on the basis of reports from 1,005 cities over 2,500 (total 1950 population of 32,638,067), arrests of juveniles (under 18) increased 2.3 per cent while arrests of adults decreased 1.9 per cent.

Cities over 25,000 (253 cities over 25,000, total 1950 population of 25,213,979) dominated the overall 2.3 per cent increase in arrests of juveniles. These larger cities reflected a 2.8 per cent rise in arrests of young persons under 18 while total arrests decreased 0.5 per cent.

Arrests of young persons (under 18) in smaller cities remained almost unchanged with a 0.2 per cent increase shown. In these cities, total arrests decreased 5.2 per cent. (752 cities, 2,500 to 25,000 in population, combined 1950 population 7,419,981).

Auto Theft High

Arrest reports from 1389 cities representing 38,642,183 inhabitants (1950 census), or approximately 43 per cent of the city population of the United States, revealed, most interesting facts relative to juvenile crime. Persons aged 17 or under represented almost 10 per cent of the 1954 arrest total of 1,688,555 recorded in the 1389 cities reporting. Juveniles (under 18) represented 57.6 per cent of all persons arrested for auto theft. Youngsters in this age group were also high in burglary and larceny arrests—49 per cent and 43.6 per cent, respectively, of the persons arrested in each category.

Over 51 per cent of arrests for property crimes were of young persons under 21. For crimes against the person, young people represented only 14 per cent of the arrests.

Of the total reported arrests in these 1389 cities, 163,666 represented youngsters under 18 years of age and 269,831 represented persons under 21 years of age.

How are we to combat the trends which reflect a shocking number of juveniles involved in illegal activities each year?

Crime Controllable

First of all, we need to know that juvenile crime is not an uncontrollable problem. Something can be done about it. In more than a few areas of the country something is being done. A number of communities, aroused by the spreading blot of youthful

crime, have succeeded in halting the increase of delinquency and in a few instances have reversed the general trend. No "cure-all" remedy has been found. Hard work, determination, and community cooperation appear to be the common denominators rather than specific methods of attack. The methods varied. They ranged from programs of youths policing themselves, to the courts holding parents responsible for the acts of their children. Getting "tough" with delinquents was effective in one area. Police boys clubs worked in other areas. Still others emphasized improvement of recreational facilities. While methods were many and varied, all groups stressed one thing: Prevention of crime.

Preventive efforts with relation to delinquency problems can be most effective when the specific causes of delinquency are once ascertained. These vary, are once ascertained. These vary.

Magnuson Raps Kuykendall Verdict

Washington —(U.P.)— Sen. Warren G. Magnuson said today the chairman of the Federal Power commission should have disqualified himself from the decision to let a private utility develop power in Hells Canyon.

The Washington Democrat said Chairman Jerome Kuykendall should have done so because of his relationship with Gov. Arthur B. Langlie of Washington.

Langlie is an opponent of development of Hells Canyon power by the government and reportedly sponsored Kuykendall for the FPC post.

In an interview with Rural Electrification Magazine, Magnuson also said he believed the FPC membership was stacked against the Idaho Power Co. to develop the power resources of Hells Canyon along the Snake river on the Idaho-Oregon border. But public power advocates have asked the FPC to reconsider the decision. If the FPC decision stands, they have promised to appeal to the U. S. Court of Appeals.

Magnuson said there are "good prospects" the appeals court would overrule FPC because FPC has "failed to administer our natural resources" in accordance with the Federal Power Act.

Washington —(U.P.)— Rep. Daniel A. Reed, a low tax champion for 35 years, Saturday warned against cutting taxes prematurely next year.

Delinquents come from wealthy as well as poverty-stricken homes. It is the way a child is reared and the atmosphere of the surroundings in which he is reared that make him what he is. Almost invariably there is a cause-and-effect relationship between the delinquent and the atmosphere of the home.

Consider the 10-year-old child arrested in connection with a number of store burglaries. The youngster's mother, a widow, reportedly was a heavy drinker and frequented bars. Apparently she gave the boy little care or attention as evidenced by the fact that he prepared his own

breakfasts. The child's delinquencies allegedly began when, having had no breakfast, he entered a store to get food.

Consider also the attitude of the well-to-do father of a teenage boy charged with malicious mischief. The father could not understand why his son had gotten in trouble. He had, he said, given the boy everything the youngster wanted!

Adult Conduct Important

It is never easy to ascertain what makes a youngster commit crimes. However, a beginning point in determining this is his home. Juvenile delinquency stems from adult failures and

adult delinquencies. We need to restore stern standards of adult conduct. We need to debunk the debunkers who continuously slander traditional standards of conduct, morality and patriotism. We need to demand responsibility on the part of parents. The Biblical charge to "train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it" is as sound today as it was one or many generations ago.

In the treatment of juvenile offenders we need to exchange the softness which breeds contempt for the firmness which gets respect. We need to let de-

fiant young lawbreakers know that they cannot get away with it again and again.

Police Assistance Invaluable

We need to recognize that the local police officer is closest to the problem of juvenile delinquency and the conditions contributing to it. His assistance is invaluable.

Cooperation among the police, the juvenile courts and other official agencies responsible for dealing with delinquent juveniles is imperative. And, finally, we need to give wholehearted support to the many organizations which provide constructive recreation programs for youth.

There is proof that the trend of juvenile crime can be reduced. Steps to be taken, and then take We must recognize the extent of the necessary positive action.

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