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THE DELINQUENT'S IMAGE



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BOARD OF CONTROL
OF STATE INSTITUTIONS
DES MOINES, IOWA

THE
DELINQUENT'S
IMAGE

THE JUDGEMENTS OF 347 DELINQUENTS AND 177 NON-DELINQUENTS
ON THE NATURE AND TREATMENT OF JUVENILE DELINQUENTS

By

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PART ONE

THE EXTENT OF DELINQUENCY

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THE DELINQUENT'S IMAGE

With all the information and data accumulated on juvenile delinquency in recent years, the most important group involved in the problem, the delinquents, have unfortunately been silent. Only a minimal amount of information has come from those on the receiving end of the efforts of the police and the courts. Very few have sought to determine what delinquents think about delinquency. How do they judge their own acts and those of other offenders? Are their viewpoints any different from the non-delinquents in society? In other words, how do the consumers of the judicial services view the factors which brought them to the point where they are?

No one should expect juveniles or adults involved in court procedures and committed to correctional institutions to come forth with theoretical finalities, but an attempt should be made to gain their views.

In order to determine, in some degree, the offender's image of delinquency and delinquents, schedules have been obtained from 347 subjects in four correctional institutions in the State of Iowa. Each schedule permitted the participant to indicate his or her judgment on 42 different topics relative to delinquency and delinquents with age and sex as the only identifying factors. All the schedules were administered in the institutions in 1959 on a voluntary basis.

The following are the institutions and number of schedules:

- 1. Training School for Girls at Mitchellville. 54
Ages 14 to 19 years
- 2. Training School for Boys at Eldora. 103
Ages 14 to 19 years
- 3. Men's Reformatory at Aramosa. 106
Ages 18 to 32 years
- 4. State Penitentiary at Ft. Madison. 84
Ages 20 to 55 years

In addition to the delinquents, 177 non-delinquents cooperated in giving information on identical schedules. These 177 involved 100 students in the Iowa State University of Science and Technology in Ames, and 77 Business and Professional Women in the same city. The ages of the men and women students ranged from 18 to 25 years whereas the ages of the Business Women varied from 25 to 60 years.

The 42 items presented to each person were arranged without regard to subject matter. The participants indicated whether they "Strongly Agreed," "Agreed," were "Undecided," "Disagreed" or "Strongly Disagreed" with the given statement. After the responses to the 42 items on the 524 schedules had been tabulated, the statements were grouped into five general topics:

1. The Extent of Delinquency
2. The Sources of Delinquency
3. The Characteristics of Delinquents
4. The Treatment of Delinquents
5. The Remedies for Delinquency

Instead of presenting the results in the report in terms of the five possible points of view, the categories have been combined into three for clarity and simplification. Also instead of using the six different groups, the data have been consolidated into two groups, the delinquents and the non-delinquents. Where serious difference existed in each group or in each type of reaction, the facts have been stated in the body of the material.

In assessing the information in the report it should be kept in mind that there are distinct differences between scientific theory and determining what people may think about social phenomenon. A scientific theory depends on the amount of correct or incorrect evidence available, but judgments,

beliefs and attitudes exist without intellectual or rational analysis.

The judgments of an individual are the residues of the emotional experiential past or non-logical thinking of people. This does not mean that the latter has less value. In some instances they may have more weight. Lincoln once pointed out that if facts agree with what people think all is well, but if the facts do not agree with the thinking of the people "it is too bad for the facts." Also, it may be suggested that people are moved to action more by what they think to be the case rather than what the actual situation may be.

The information summarized in this brief report has but one purpose: to portray the image of delinquency as viewed by delinquents.

IS THERE MORE DELINQUENCY "TODAY" THAN "YESTERDAY"?

- (1) There is more delinquency in the United States today because we have more people in the country and not because children are any "worse" than they used to be.

JUDGMENT	Delinquents		Non-Delinquents	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree and Agree	195	56.0	115	64.9
Undecided	53	15.5	11	6.2
Strongly Disagree and Disagree	99	28.5	51	28.9
Total	347	100.0	177	100.0

Is delinquency increasing, decreasing or about the same today as it has been in the past? Is there any trend in the volume?

More than half, 56 percent, of the delinquents and 64.9 percent of the non-delinquents agreed that there is more delinquency today merely because there has been an increase in the total population of the country. Among delinquents, 15.5 percent were undecided as were 6.2 percent of the non-delinquents. A few more than one-fourth, 28 percent, disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement indicating that children were worse and that the increase was due to other than the increase in population.

Available data for the United States from the Children's Bureau reveal that from 1950 to 1957 delinquency cases in court increased 115 percent whereas the child population 10 to 17 years of age increased only 27 percent. Actually, delinquency has been increasing faster than the population in the nation.

NOTE: The number before each statement is the order in which the topic appeared in the schedule.

IS DELINQUENCY HIGHER IN THE CITY THAN IN THE RURAL AREAS?

- (7) Delinquency among farm boys and girls is less than among city children because they have less opportunity to commit delinquent acts.

JUDGMENT	Delinquents		Non-Delinquents	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree and Agree	241	69.5	128	72.3
Undecided	34	9.8	9	5.1
Strongly Disagree and Disagree	72	20.7	40	22.6
Total	347	100.0	177	100.0

Some maintain that delinquency is just as high in the rural areas as it is in the urban centers but the offenders in the farm sections are not caught.

Almost three-fourths, 72.3 percent, of the non-delinquents and 69.5 percent of the delinquents maintained that delinquency was lower among farm people than in cities. Less than one-fourth, 20.7 percent, of the delinquents and 22.6 percent of the non-delinquents held the opposite view maintaining there were no differences. Of the delinquents 9.8 percent were undecided as were 5.1 percent of the non-delinquents.

Data for 1959 reveal that delinquency cases in the courts were almost four times higher in the urban areas of the nation than in the rural sections. In urban areas the rate was 40.3 whereas in the rural areas it was 13.5 per 1,000 children 10 to 17 years of age.

In spite of the lower rates in the rural areas, the percentage of increases in both areas differ. From 1958 to 1959 cases in rural areas increased 15 percent but actually decreased 2 percent in the urban areas. The volume and rates are lower in the farm areas, but there has been a greater increase in the farm sections than in the urban districts.

IS TODAY'S CHILD "BETTER" OR "WORSE" THAN YESTERDAY'S CHILD?

- (36) Children today are better educated and have much more of a wholesome outlook on life than the children of a generation ago.

JUDGMENT	Delinquents		Non-Delinquents	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree and Agree	238	68.5	92	52.0
Undecided	70	20.5	48	27.1
Strongly Disagree and Disagree	39	11.0	37	20.9
Total	347	100.0	177	100.0

More than two-thirds, 68.5 percent, of the delinquents and 52 percent of the non-delinquents believed that children today are better educated with a more wholesome outlook on life than the children of yesterday. About one-fourth in each group were undecided, 27.1 percent for non-delinquents and 20.5 percent in the delinquent group. Eleven percent of the delinquents and 20.9 percent of the non-delinquents thought that children today were not as wholesome as in the past. In general, the non-delinquents took a much less hopeful view than the delinquents. Also, the university students were much less hopeful than the Business and Professional Women. Only 40 percent of the students agreed with the statement whereas 67.4 percent of the B-P Women did. The percentages for the delinquents were consistent at 68 percent.

About two-thirds of the delinquents and about one-half of the non-delinquents maintained that the youth today are "better" than those of the past.

HOW DOES TODAY'S CHILD COMPARE WITH YESTERDAY'S CHILD?

(39) Young people today are just the same as the youth of the past generation -- no better and no worse.

JUDGMENT	Delinquents		Non-Delinquents	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree and Agree	143	41.2	111	62.7
Undecided	78	22.5	42	23.7
Strongly Disagree and Disagree	126	36.3	24	13.6
Total	347	100.0	177	100.0

In order to verify the previous statement in the schedule, the judgment was restated as above. The results were slightly different. About two-thirds, 62.7 percent, of the non-delinquents and 41.2 percent of the delinquents maintained that the youth today are the same as yesterday -- no better and no worse. In each group about one-fourth were undecided, 22.5 percent of the delinquents and 23.7 percent of the non-delinquents. More than one-third, 36.3 percent of the delinquents and 13.6 percent of the non-delinquents disagreed and, therefore, maintained that there was a difference, i.e., children today were "worse." The B-P Women were more critical than the students because 18.1 percent disagreed with the view. Also, girls in the training school were less optimistic since 42.6 percent disagreed and held that children today were "worse." Of the girls, 18.5 percent "strongly disagreed," the highest percentage in this category for all groups.

In general, 62.7 percent of the non-delinquents were hopeful about the present generation, but 58.8 percent of the delinquents were in disagreement or undecided about present prospects.

PART TWO

THE CHARACTERISTICS OF DELINQUENTS

IS APPREHENSION THE ONLY DIFFERENCE?

- (13) The only difference between a delinquent and one who is not, is that one has been caught and the other has not.

JUDGMENT	Delinquents		Non-Delinquents	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree and Agree	108	31.1	24	13.3
Undecided	44	12.7	13	7.3
Strongly Disagree and Disagree	195	56.2	141	79.6
Total	347	100.0	177	100.0

From the general idea that it is alright to steal but do not get caught, follows the concept that the only difference between the delinquent and the non-delinquent is that the former "gets caught."

A few less than one-third, 31.1 percent, of the delinquents and 13.3 percent of the non-delinquents agreed with the above statement. Among the delinquents 12.7 percent were uncertain as were 7.3 percent of the other group. Many more of the non-delinquents, 79.6 percent, disagreed with the judgment than the delinquents, 56.2 percent. There were noticeable differences among the non-delinquents, because 17 percent of the students agreed with the view but only 9 percent of the B-P Women agreed. About one-third 31.1 percent, of the delinquents thought that crime was not serious but that getting caught was the real error. More of the younger delinquents, 34 percent, maintained this view than the older offenders, 23.7 percent of the men in the penitentiary.

DO CLOTHES MAKE THE DELINQUENT?

- (3) A potential delinquent can be spotted or identified by the way he dresses and combs his hair.

JUDGMENT	Delinquents		Non-Delinquents	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree and Agree	90	25.9	29	16.4
Undecided	31	8.9	24	13.5
Strongly Disagree and Disagree	226	65.2	129	70.1
Total	347	100.0	177	100.0

Not a few people associate certain modes of dress or physical appearance with delinquency, especially the jacket and the long hair.

Only one-fourth, 25.9 percent, of the delinquents and 16.4 percent of the non-delinquents supported this view. More than two-thirds, 65.2 percent of the delinquents and 70.1 percent of the non-delinquents held the opposite view, that delinquents cannot be identified by dress and hair comb. Only 8.9 percent of the delinquents were undecided as were 13.5 percent of the non-delinquents.

There were noticeable differences in the two groups. Among the older men in the penitentiary, 30.9 percent agreed but only 16.9 percent of the inmates at the men's reformatory held the same view. For the boys in the training school, 31.1 supported the statement. Only 13 percent of the students thought that dress was a distinguishing factor and 70 percent disagreed with the statement.

In general, both groups maintained that a certain kind of dress was not a mark of delinquency.

ARE DELINQUENTS PHYSICALLY WEAKLINGS?

- (4) Delinquents are not as strong and not as healthy as non-delinquent children of the same age group.

JUDGMENT	Delinquents		Non-Delinquents	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree and Agree	37	10.7	28	15.8
Undecided	27	7.8	18	10.2
Strongly Disagree and Disagree	283	81.5	131	74.0
Total	347	100.0	177	100.0

Some authorities have maintained that delinquents as a rule are not healthy and are weak physically.

Only 10.7 percent of the delinquents and 15.8 percent of the non-delinquents supported the above idea. Disagreement was highest for the delinquents, 81.5 percent, and 74 percent of the non-delinquents held the same view. There were variations in percentages in both groups. Whereas only 10 percent of the students agreed to the statement, 23.4 percent of the B-P Women agreed, or twice as many on a percentage basis. Also the girls in the training school displayed a higher percentage of agreement, 22.1 percent. In contrast, only 10.7 percent of the boys supported the idea. Disagreement with the view was highest among the men in the penitentiary, 89.9 percent.

A number of studies on the health of delinquents have reported different results but one of the better monographs in the field by the Gluecks reveals that delinquents, in the main, are just as healthy as non-delinquents. (a)

(a) Glueck, S. S. and E., Unravelling Juvenile Delinquency, 1950.

DO DELINQUENTS HAVE LOW I.Q. SCORES?

- (5) Most delinquents have lower I.Q.'s than non-delinquent children of the same age group.

JUDGMENT	Delinquents		Non-Delinquents	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree and Agree	91	26.3	70	39.5
Undecided	46	13.2	29	16.5
Strongly Disagree and Disagree	210	60.5	78	44.0
Total	347	100.0	177	100.0

Because feeble-mindedness has been associated with deviant behavior, many have assumed that delinquents possess lower I.Q. scores than non-delinquent children. The view had had some support because many reports on inmates in training schools show a low average score.

About one-fourth, 26.3 percent, of the delinquents and 39.5 percent of the non-delinquents maintained that delinquents do have lower I.Q. scores than the non-delinquent. However, almost two-thirds, 60.5 percent, of the delinquents disagreed as did 44 percent of the non-delinquents. The percent undecided was about the same in both groups, 13.2 and 16.5 percent. The percentage difference between those who disagreed was noticeable, 20.5 percent.

Students displayed the highest percent of agreement with 44 percent and girls in the training school the lowest with only 22.2 percent. Disagreement was greatest among the penitentiary inmates with 65.4 percent.

It is true that inmates of training schools, in the main, display a lower average I.Q. score than children in public schools where age is held constant. However, it should be clear that, in some cases, delinquents in training schools have scored as high as 120 and 130 in certain mental tests. It should be kept in mind that inmates do not represent all delinquents.

ARE THE GIRLS SMARTER THAN THE BOYS?

(6) Delinquent boys have higher I.Q.'s than delinquent girls.

JUDGMENT	Delinquents		Non-Delinquents	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree and Agree	48	13.9	30	17.0
Undecided	163	47.0	87	49.1
Strongly Disagree and Disagree	136	39.1	60	33.9
Total	347	100.0	177	100.0

Strange as it may seem, available information reveals that girls in training schools do score higher in I.Q. tests than boys in training schools. The range for girls is much wider and the average higher than for boys.

The respondents were almost equally divided in the percentage of those undecided, 47 percent for delinquents and 49.1 percent for the non-delinquents. Only 13.9 percent of the delinquents and 17 percent of the non-delinquents maintained that the boys have higher scores than the girls. A few more than one-third in each group disagreed, 39.1 percent for the delinquents and 33.9 percent for the non-delinquents.

As is to be expected, the girls, 65.8 percent, in the training school displayed the highest percentage of objection to the statement. The statement was a direct reflection on their own capacities.

In general, girls in training schools display higher intelligence scores than boys in training schools. The differences may be due in part to the types of offenses for each. Also high school girls score higher in public schools.

ARE THERE NO "BAD" BOYS OR GIRLS?

- (12) Some boys and girls are just naturally incorrigible or "bad actors" and no matter how much you do for them, no good comes of it.

JUDGMENT	Delinquents		Non-Delinquents	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree and Agree	124	35.7	48	27.1
Undecided	44	12.7	17	19.6
Strongly Disagree and Disagree	179	51.6	112	63.3
Total	347	100.0	177	100.0

The above statement is the negation of the oft-quoted phrase, "There are no bad boys."

Slightly more than one-third, 35.7 percent, of the delinquents and 27.1 percent of the non-delinquents agreed with the idea that some boys and girls are just naturally incorrigible. About half, 51.6 percent, of the delinquents and two-thirds, 63.3 percent, of the non-delinquents objected to the statement. Of the delinquents, 12.7 percent were undecided as were 19.6 percent of the non-delinquents.

No data are available to prove or disprove the above statement, but it is a known fact that some persons seem impervious to good influence whereas others do not become involved in trouble regardless of how unfortunate the conditions may be.

PART THREE

THE SOURCES OF DELINQUENCY

DOES POVERTY CAUSE DELINQUENCY?

- (2) In the main, juvenile offenders come from the poorer economic groups or classes in the nation.

JUDGMENT	Delinquents		Non-Delinquents	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree and Agree	151	43.5	81	45.8
Undecided	40	11.5	22	12.4
Strongly Disagree and Disagree	156	45.0	74	41.8
Total	347	100.0	177	100.0

In spite of the rather widespread belief that poverty is the cause of delinquency only 43.5 percent of the delinquents and 45 percent of the non-delinquents supported the statement. Disagreement amounted to 45 percent for the delinquents and 41.8 percent for the non-delinquents. The percent undecided is about the same for each group, 11.5 and 11.4 percent.

Results varied within both groups. More than two-thirds of the students, 65 percent, supported the statement whereas only 20.7 percent of the B-P Women maintained that juveniles come from the poorer groups in society. Of the delinquents, only the girls in the training school displayed any definite view where 55.5 percent disagreed with the expressed view. Also they showed the lowest amount undecided, 1.4 percent.

It is known that juveniles in training schools do come from the poorer economic groups but inmates represent a selected class, about 20 percent of all cases in court. Recent information has shown that many delinquents at present are coming from "comfortable" families. In H. A. Snyder's study, 50 percent of the families owned their own homes, 69 percent of the homes had 6 or more rooms, 73 percent owned cars, 96 percent had TV sets and 85 percent lived in communities where there were swimming pools. (a)

(a) Snyder, H. A., Study in Gray, Bureau of Correction, Pennsylvania, 1960. Common characteristics of 486 inmates in Camp Hill.

DO POOL HALL BOYS GET INTO TROUBLE?

- (8) It has been my observation that boys who frequent pool halls are the ones who most often get into trouble with the police.

JUDGMENT	Delinquents		Non-Delinquents	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree and Agree	153	44.1	84	47.4
Undecided	37	10.7	52	29.4
Strongly Disagree and Disagree	157	45.2	41	23.2
Total	347	100.0	177	100.0

Although pool halls and recreational centers have changed considerably in the past quarter century, the idea still persists that a pool hall is a place where youth may become involved in delinquency.

The judgments of both groups were almost equally divided for and against the statement. Of the 347 delinquents, 44.1 percent agreed that boys who frequent pool halls do get into trouble. Of the non-delinquents, 47.4 percent were of the same opinion. Disagreement was higher for the delinquents, 45.2 percent, than for the non-delinquents, 23.2 percent.

Among the non-delinquents, the B-P Women took a less favorable view since 57 percent agreed with the statement. Of the students, only 40 percent took the same view and 32 percent objected. Of the delinquents, 50 percent of the girls in the training school disagreed, but only 42.8 percent of the older men in the penitentiary disagreed.

Conclusive evidence on the question is not available, but the Gluecks found that 20.4 percent of the delinquents did spend leisure time in pool halls whereas only 1 percent of the non-delinquents did the same. In the Camp Hill study, Snyder found that 34 percent of the delinquent boys spent time in pool halls, but only 16 percent of the non-delinquents did.

WHAT ABOUT THE EXAMPLES SET BY ADULTS?

- (15) It is very easy for a boy to become a delinquent when he sees men in business and in government making a good living from rackets.

JUDGMENT	Delinquents		Non-Delinquents	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree and Agree	214	61.7	100	56.5
Undecided	62	17.9	25	14.1
Strongly Disagree and Disagree	71	20.4	52	29.4
Total	347	100.0	177	100.0

The image of men in business and in government is constantly before youth. Dishonesty in private and public enterprise plays an important part in setting standards for youth.

Almost two-thirds, 61.7 percent, of the delinquents and 56.5 percent of the non-delinquents maintained that "bad" examples have a serious effect on youth. About one-fifth, 20.4 percent, of the delinquents and 29.4 percent of the non-delinquents did not agree with the expressed view.

Judgments varied according to age in both groups. In the non-delinquent group, 68.7 percent of the B-P Women agreed, but only 47 percent of the students held the same view. Of the delinquents, 74.9 percent of the men in the penitentiary supported the statement, but only 51.8 percent of the girls in the training school agreed with them.

About two-thirds of the delinquents and more than half of the non-delinquents maintained that dishonesty in business and government leads to dishonesty among juveniles.

THE "BAD APPLE" IN THE BARREL OF GOOD APPLES

- (17) If a girl has served time in a state training school, she would be a "bad" influence on other high school students if she were permitted to return to her high school after parole.

JUDGMENT	Delinquents		Non-Delinquents	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree and Agree	22	6.3	12	6.8
Undecided	24	6.9	36	20.3
Strongly Disagree and Disagree	301	86.8	129	72.9
Total	347	100.0	177	100.0

The "bad apple in a barrel of good apples" idea appears to be discounted by both the delinquents and the non-delinquents. Only 6.3 percent of the former and 6.8 percent of the latter agreed that the girl in the above statement would have a bad influence on other high school children. By contrast, 86.8 percent of the delinquents and 72.9 percent of the non-delinquents disagreed, i.e., no bad influence. Here the delinquents took a more favorable view than the non-delinquents. Disagreement was high among the training school girls where 90.8 percent disagreed, but the men in the penitentiary objecting amounted to 91.5 percent. The training school boys displayed the highest percentage of agreement, 11.6 percent.

It is possible that part of the high percentage of disagreement may have been due to the wording of the statement which implies that the "girl" in the case should be given a proper "chance" after leaving the school.

About four-fifths of the delinquents and three-fourths of the non-delinquents maintained the training school girl should be permitted to return to high school.

SHOULD TRAINING SCHOOL PAROLEES BE ALLOWED TO PLAY
WITH OTHER CHILDREN ON COMMUNITY GROUNDS?

- (24) Most parents would not want their children to play on a community playground where parolees from state training schools are allowed to play.

JUDGMENT	Delinquents		Non-Delinquents	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree and Agree	167	48.2	110	62.1
Undecided	83	23.9	31	17.5
Strongly Disagree and Disagree	97	27.9	36	20.4
Total	347	100.0	177	100.0

In order to test the previous "Bad Apple" concept, the above statement about playing with parolees appeared later in the schedule. The results showed a slight change of view. Almost two-thirds, 62.1 percent, of the non-delinquents and 48.2 percent of the delinquents believed that parents would not want their children to play with parolees. Of delinquents, 23.9 percent were undecided as were 17.5 percent of the other group. More than one-fourth, 27.9 percent, of the delinquents disagreed with the statement indicating that they thought parents would not object to having parolees play with their children. A few less, 20.4 percent, of the non-delinquents were of the same opinion.

Judgments varied in each group. Whereas 76 percent of the students agreed with the statement, only 44.6 percent of the B-P Women agreed. Among the delinquents, the training school boys appeared to be more aware of the situation for 61.1 percent maintained that the parents would not want their children to play with parolees. Only 39.7 percent of the training school girls agreed with the boys.

About two-thirds of the non-delinquents and about half of the delinquents held that parents would not want their children to play with parolees.

SHOULD HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC CONTESTS BE HELD
IN THE AFTERNOON INSTEAD OF IN THE EVENINGS?

- (20) If high school athletic contests were held in the afternoon instead of in the evening, there would be less delinquency among high school students.

JUDGMENT	Delinquents		Non-Delinquents	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree and Agree	88	25.5	53	29.7
Undecided	78	22.3	38	21.3
Strongly Disagree and Disagree	181	52.2	86	49.0
Total	347	100.0	177	100.0

Because of the inter-school fights or "rumbles" after high school athletic contests, some people have advocated changing the time of play to afternoons during the daylight hours.

About one-fourth, 25.5 percent, of the delinquents and 29.7 percent of the non-delinquents agreed that a change would help the situation. About one-fifth in each group were undecided, 22.3 and 21.3 percent. Almost half of the non-delinquents 49 percent, and more than half, 52.2 percent, of the delinquents were opposed to the idea of scheduling games in the afternoon.

Approval of the plan varied widely by groups. Among the non-delinquents, 53.4 percent of the B-P Women maintained that afternoon games would decrease delinquency, but only 12 percent of the students agreed with them. Of the delinquents, 28 percent of the training school girls agreed, but only 21.7 percent of the men in the reformatory were of the same opinion.

In general, more than half of the delinquents did not approve of the change in schedule and slightly less than half of the non-delinquents were of the same opinion.

ARE TRAINING SCHOOLS, SCHOOLS FOR CRIME?

- (28) The way state training schools are operated now, there is little chance for a youth committed to such an institution to "go straight" after he has been released.

JUDGMENT	Delinquents		Non-Delinquents	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree and Agree	110	31.6	47	26.5
Undecided	46	13.3	49	27.7
Strongly Disagree and Disagree	191	55.1	81	45.8
Total	347	100.0	177	100.0

In spite of the improvements in the programs in state training schools in the country, the general image of these schools remains as a "training ground for crime."

A few more than one-fourth, 26.5 percent, of the non-delinquents and almost one-third, 31.6 percent, of the delinquents agreed that training schools can do little to help a youth to go straight. The percentage of those undecided among the non-delinquents, 27.7 percent, was double the 13.3 percent of the delinquents. Contrary to expectations, the delinquents took a more favorable view than the non-delinquents. Of the former, 55.1 percent did not agree with the statement whereas 45.8 percent of the non-delinquents held the same view.

Judgments differed in both groups very largely on the basis of age. Of the older offenders in the penitentiary, 40.4 percent agreed whereas 31.1 percent of the training school boys agreed. Only 11 percent of the training school girls agreed with the expressed view. Among the non-delinquents, 37 percent of the students agreed, but only 13 percent of the B-P Women held the same view.

A few more than half, 55.1 percent, of the delinquents maintain that training schools are helping inmates whereas a few less than half of the non-delinquents, 45.8 percent, agree.

THE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND THE CAR PROBLEM

- (30) High school boys often steal just to get gas and supplies for their cars. If they were not allowed to drive cars to school, there would be less delinquency among high school boys.

JUDGMENT	Delinquents		Non-Delinquents	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree and Agree	120	34.6	84	47.5
Undecided	39	11.2	22	12.4
Strongly Disagree and Disagree	188	54.2	71	40.1
Total	347	100.0	177	100.0

Some people have maintained that if high school students were not allowed to drive cars to school, petty thefts would decrease because some boys have been involved in larceny acts in order to keep the cars supplied with gas and parts.

Both groups of respondents displayed different views. About one-third, 34.6 percent, of the delinquents and 47.5 percent of the non-delinquents agreed that prohibition of cars would decrease delinquency among high school boys. The number undecided was about the same for both, 11.2 and 12.4 percent. More of the delinquents, 54.2 percent, did not agree with the proposal than non-delinquents, 40.1 percent.

There were wide differences within each group. Among the non-delinquents, 77.9 percent of the B-P Women agreed with the plan, but only 24 percent of the university students were of the same opinion. Also, about 40 percent of the older delinquents supported the program, but less than one-fifth of the training school girls, 18.5 percent, concurred.

In general, the non-delinquents believed that the prohibition of cars at high school would decrease delinquency, but more than half of the delinquents took the opposite view.

ROCK 'N ROLL ENDS UP IN DELINQUENCY.

- (38) Teenagers who take part in ROCK 'N ROLL music sessions usually become involved in delinquent acts.

JUDGMENT	Delinquents		Non-Delinquents	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree and Agree	34	9.8	5	2.8
Undecided	39	11.2	38	21.5
Strongly Disagree and Disagree	274	79.0	134	75.7
Total	347	100.0	177	100.0

From numerous sources have come the complaint that Rock 'n Roll music sessions have serious undesirable effects on youth. Some cities have prohibited Rock 'n Roll performances because the mass hysteria has led to disorders.

Only 2.8 percent of the non-delinquents and 9.8 percent of the delinquents agreed that teenagers taking part in Rock 'n Roll sessions become involved in deviant behavior. The percent undecided for non-delinquents, 21.5 percent, was double that for the delinquents, 11.2 percent. More than three-fourths in both groups disagreed with the expressed view, 79 percent for the delinquents and 75.7 percent for the non-delinquents. Disagreement was highest among training school girls, 93.3 percent, and university students, 88 percent. In contrast, only 59.6 percent of the B-P Women disagreed with the view. The training school boys, 15.5 percent, displayed the highest percentage of agreement with the idea whereas only 3.6 percent of the training school girls held the same view.

In the main, more than three-fourths of the delinquents and non-delinquents maintained that Rock 'n Roll sessions had no relationship to delinquent acts.

MONEY IS THE "ROOT OF EVIL" FOR DELINQUENTS.

(35) The parents of today spoil their children by giving them too much spending money.

JUDGMENT	Delinquents		Non-Delinquents	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree and Agree	200	57.7	120	67.8
Undecided	51	14.7	28	15.8
Strongly Disagree and Disagree	96	27.6	29	16.4
Total	347	100.0	177	100.0

At times, people have been prone to say that too much easy money tends to "spoil" the present-day youth.

More than half of the delinquents, 57.7 percent, and two-thirds, 67.8 percent, of the non-delinquents agreed with the expressed view. About 15 percent in each group were undecided. A few more than one-fourth of the delinquents, 27.6 percent, disagreed whereas only 16.4 percent of the non-delinquents opposed the view.

As in other situations, age differences tended to divide those in each group. Among the non-delinquents, 88.2 percent of the B-P Women concurred with the idea, but only 52 percent of the students were of the same opinion. Of the men in the penitentiary, 62.8 percent agreed, but only 49.5 percent of the training school boys took the same view. In contrast to the boys, 65.7 percent of the girls in the training school thought that easy money did spoil children. None of the non-delinquents strongly disagreed with the proposal, but 6.9 percent of the delinquents did.

Both the non-delinquents and the delinquents maintained that "too much easy money" spoiled children.

THE SOCIAL POSITION OF THE PARENTS TENDS TO INFLUENCE
THE TREATMENT OF JUVENILE OFFENDERS.

- (40) It has been my observation that if a boy from the "better families" in the community gets into trouble, his parents send him to some military school, but if a boy from the less well-to-do gets into trouble, the court sends him to the state training school.

JUDGMENT	Delinquents		Non-Delinquents	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree and Agree	228	65.7	131	74.0
Undecided	58	16.7	30	17.0
Strongly Disagree and Disagree	61	17.6	16	9.0
Total	347	100.0	177	100.0

Since delinquency implies apprehension, it has been assumed that the social position of parents plays an important part as to how an offender will be treated.

Both delinquents and non-delinquents maintained that children from "better families" receive different treatment in delinquency cases than children from less well-to-do families. Almost three-fourths of the non-delinquents, 74 percent, concurred with the view as did two-thirds, 65.7 percent, of the delinquents. Among the delinquents, 17.6 percent disagreed as did 9 percent of the non-delinquents. Acceptance of the view was higher among the B-P Women, 89.8 percent, than among the university students, 70 percent. Among training school girls, 70.3 percent agreed as did 72.5 percent of the men in the penitentiary. Only 60.2 percent of the training school boys and 63.1 percent of the men in the reformatory agreed with the statement.

There are no data to prove or disprove that social position of the parents determines preference in delinquency cases, but three-fourths of the non-delinquents and two-thirds of the delinquents agreed with the opinion.

PART FOUR

THE TREATMENT OF JUVENILE OFFENDERS

THE POLICE AND THE COURTS SHOULD "GET TOUGH" WITH JUVENILES.

(22) It has been my observation that the police and the courts are "too easy" on delinquents in my town or city.

JUDGMENT	Delinquents		Non-Delinquents	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree and Agree	72	20.7	74	41.8
Undecided	64	18.5	59	33.4
Strongly Disagree and Disagree	211	60.8	44	24.8
Total	347	100.0	177	100.0

In not a few instances, many people have expressed the view that the police and the courts are "too easy" with juvenile offenders and they tend to treat them as welfare cases instead of as offenders. They, therefore, advocate a "get tough policy."

The delinquents and the non-delinquents differed noticeably on the question of treatment. Only one-fifth, 20.7 percent, of the delinquents agreed with the view whereas 41.8 percent of the non-delinquents agreed. Almost two-thirds, 60.8 percent, of the delinquents disapproved as did 24.8 percent of the non-delinquents. About one-third, 33.4 percent, of the non-delinquents were undecided as were 18.5 percent of the delinquents. Age and sex tended to divide both groups. Of the training school boys, 23.3 percent concurred whereas only 12.9 percent of the girls agreed. Among the non-delinquents, 51 percent of the B-P Women held to a "get tough" plan, but only 35 percent of the university students agreed with them. Disagreement was highest for the training school girls, 79.6 percent, and for the men in the penitentiary, 60.6 percent.

In general, the delinquents were opposed to the "get tough" policy whereas less than half of the non-delinquents were in favor of more severe treatment.

NEWSPAPERS SHOULD PUBLISH NAMES OF DELINQUENTS.

- (16) Newspapers should publish the names of juvenile delinquents the same as they do for adult criminals.

JUDGMENT	Delinquents		Delinquents	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree and Agree	102	29.4	76	43.0
Undecided	31	8.9	29	16.4
Strongly Disagree and Disagree	214	61.7	72	40.6
Total	347	100.0	177	100.0

Considerable controversy has arisen among journalists, judges and public welfare persons over the issue of publishing the names of juvenile offenders.

The results show that delinquents are opposed to the publication of names whereas non-delinquents tend to favor the practice. Whereas 43 percent of the non-delinquents approve of publishing names, only 29.4 percent of the delinquents held the same view. Almost two-thirds, 61.7 percent, of the delinquents disapprove publication whereas 40.6 percent of the non-delinquents were of the same opinion. About one-half, 50.9 percent, of the B-P Women approved of the plan, but only 37 percent of the university students concurred. Opposition to publication of names was higher for training school girls, 68.5 percent, and boys, 69.9 percent, than for men in the penitentiary, 55.9 percent.

In general, delinquents disapprove of publishing the names of juvenile offenders whereas less than half of the non-delinquents tend to favor the plan.

FORESTRY CAMPS ARE BETTER FOR JUVENILES THAN TRAINING SCHOOLS

- (21) If the courts in the state would commit delinquent boys to state forestry camps, it would be much better than sending them to a state training school.

JUDGMENT	Delinquents		Non-Delinquents	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree and Agree	238	68.6	98	55.3
Undecided	61	17.6	56	31.6
Strongly Disagree and Disagree	48	13.8	23	13.1
Total	347	100.0	177	100.0

Within the past 10 years, a number of states have established forestry camps in addition to training schools as methods of treating delinquents. Where they have been used, the program has gained general approval.

More than half of the non-delinquents, 55.3 percent, and two-thirds of the delinquents, 68.6 percent, favor the use of forestry camps. Only 13 percent in each group opposed the program. About one-third, 31.6 percent, of the non-delinquents were undecided as were 17.6 percent of the delinquents. More of the B-P Women, 64.9 percent, approved the plan than university students, 48 percent. About one-third, 38 percent, of the students were undecided about the matter. Among the delinquents, 84.4 percent of the men in the penitentiary favored the plan, but only 55.3 percent of the training school boys agreed with them. Only 48.1 percent of the girls approved the plan. One-fourth, 25.3 percent, of the boys opposed the plan as did 20.3 percent of the girls, but only 4.7 percent of the older men objected to the program.

In general, both delinquents and the non-delinquents approved the forestry camp program for offenders.

PAROLEES SHOULD NOT BE PERMITTED IN SCOUT TROOPS

- (25) Boy Scout leaders are wise in not allowing training school parolees to be taken into Scout Troops.

JUDGMENT	Delinquents		Non-Delinquents	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree and Agree	16	4.6	16	9.0
Undecided	38	10.9	33	18.7
Strongly Disagree and Disagree	293	84.5	128	72.3
Total	347	100.0	177	100.0

Viewpoints among people have been divided as to whether juvenile parolees should be permitted in local Boy Scout Troops. Scout leaders, in general, do not look with favor on the admission of parolees in local troops. In a few cases, training schools have established Scout Troops within the school for inmates.

Both delinquents and non-delinquents disagree with the negative statement above; therefore, they favor permitting parolees into local troops. Approval for admission was higher for delinquents, 84.5 percent, than for the non-delinquents, 72.3 percent. In contrast, 9 percent of the non-delinquents thought that Scout leaders should not allow parolees in local troops. Only 4.6 percent of the delinquents agreed with them. The exclusion of parolees from troops was higher for training school girls, 6.3 percent, and boys, 5.7 percent, than for older offenders, 2.2 percent, in the penitentiary men. Also 13 percent of the B-P Women favored exclusion whereas only 6 percent of the university students would bar parolees from troops.

In general, both the delinquents and non-delinquents would admit training school parolees into local Scout Troops. In the Camp Hill study, Snyder found that 30 percent of the inmates had been Scout members before commitment. In the non-delinquent school group, 70 percent were Scouts.

SHOULD FORMER TRAINING SCHOOL INMATES BE PERMITTED
TO ATTEND SUNDAY SCHOOL IN HOME COMMUNITY?

- (19) If a boy or girl has been returned to a community after serving time in a State training school, they should not be encouraged to attend Sunday School classes in town where they live.

JUDGMENT	Delinquents		Delinquents	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree and Agree	24	7.0	6	3.3
Undecided	15	4.3	1	0.6
Strongly Disagree and Disagree	308	88.7	170	96.1
Total	347	100.0	177	100.0

In many instances when a training school boy or girl has returned to a community, they have avoided Sunday Schools and some church leaders have not shown much interest in them.

Among delinquents, 7 percent maintained that former inmates should not be encouraged to attend Sunday School. Only 3.3 percent of the non-delinquents were of the same opinion. Very few of the respondents were undecided about the matter, 4.3 percent of the delinquents and 0.6 percent of the others. Both groups disagreed and maintained that the juveniles should be encouraged to attend Sunday School, 88.7 percent of the delinquents and 96.1 percent of the non-delinquents. Among the B-P Women 6.5 percent believed that the offenders should not be encouraged to attend Sunday School, but only 1 percent of the students agreed with them. More of the younger delinquents, 7.7 percent for the training school boys, indicated that they should not be encouraged as did 4.7 percent of the men in the penitentiary.

In both groups, the respondents favored the encouragement to attend Sunday School. H. A. Snyder asked the 486 boys in the Camp Hill study if the church had ever helped their families when in trouble or sickness. More than half, 58 percent, stated "no" and 42 percent "yes." Of these same boys, 24 percent attended church "regularly," 56 percent "sometimes," and 20 percent "never."

PAROLEES FROM TRAINING SCHOOLS SHOULD BE
EXCLUDED FROM HIGH SCHOOL TEAMS.

- (18) When a boy has been paroled from a State training school and returned to his own high school, he should not be permitted to play football or basketball on the high school teams.

JUDGMENT	Delinquents		Non-Delinquents	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree and Agree	19	5.3	5	2.9
Undecided	7	2.2	7	4.0
Strongly Disagree and Disagree	321	92.5	165	93.1
Total	347	100.0	177	100.0

In the main, most high school officials in charge of athletics have maintained that juvenile parolees should not be permitted to play on school teams. In some cases, judges have made this a condition in granting probation to juvenile offenders.

The great majority of respondents in both groups take the opposite view and "very strongly" maintain that parolees should be permitted to play on the teams. Only 2.9 percent of the non-delinquents and 5.3 percent of the delinquents agreed that parolees should be excluded. It seems strange that the delinquents should show a higher percentage than the non-delinquents. The disagreement with the above statement or approving participation in the games ran as high as 93.1 percent for the non-delinquents and 92.5 percent for the delinquents. The girls in the training school displayed the highest percentage for participation with 98 percent. The men in the penitentiary ranked next with 96.4 percent and the university students third with 95.3 percent.

An overwhelming majority of both groups maintained that parolees should be permitted on high school teams.

SHOULD FORMER TRAINING SCHOOL INMATES BE ADMITTED TO COLLEGES?

- (29) Most parents would not want their children to attend a college where the college admissions committee permits former training school inmates to attend.

JUDGMENT	Delinquents		Non-Delinquents	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree and Agree	83	23.9	38	21.5
Undecided	80	23.1	44	24.9
Strongly Disagree and Disagree	184	53.0	95	53.6
Total	347	100.0	177	100.0

In not a few instances, admissions committees in colleges have been confronted with the problem of admitting former prisoners or training school inmates. In some cases, admission has been granted whereas in others it has been denied. There appears to be no general policy about the matter.

About one-fourth of the delinquents, 23.9 percent, and 21.5 percent of the non-delinquents agreed that most parents would not want their children to attend a college where former training school inmates were allowed to attend. There was a 2.4 percent difference between the two groups with the delinquents being more critical. The percentage of those undecided was about one-fourth, 23.1 and 24.9 percent.

More than half in each group, 53 percent of the delinquents and 53.6 percent of the non-delinquents, disagreed with the statement and, therefore, held that most parents would not object. The highest percentage of approval (i.e., parents would object) appeared among training school boys, 27.2 percent, and the university students with 26 percent. The lowest percentage was for the B-P Women with only 15.4 believing that parents would object.

In the main, more than half of both groups indicated that parents would not object if their children attended a school where former training school inmates were admitted.

WOULD THE GIRLS IN A COLLEGE DORMITORY ACCEPT
A GIRL WITH A TRAINING SCHOOL RECORD?

- (26) A girl who has been paroled from a state training school for girls would find herself unwelcome in a college dormitory for girls if she were admitted by the college.

JUDGMENT	Delinquents		Non-Delinquents	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree and Agree	83	23.9	54	30.5
Undecided	115	33.1	53	29.9
Strongly Disagree and Disagree	149	43.0	70	39.6
Total	347	100.0	177	100.0

Although most respondents maintained that there would be no serious objection if offenders were admitted to enroll at a college, there was uncertainty and divided opinions about a training school girl's acceptance in a college dormitory.

About one-fourth of the delinquents, 23.9 percent, and 30.5 percent of the non-delinquents agreed that the girl would find herself unwelcome in a girls' dormitory. Almost one-third, 33.1 percent, of the delinquents were undecided as were 29.9 percent of the non-delinquents. A few more than one-third, 39.6 percent of the non-delinquents maintained that the girl would be welcome in the dormitory. More of the delinquents, 43 percent, were of the same opinion.

In the main, 57 percent of the delinquents and 60.4 percent of the non-delinquents were either undecided or of the opinion that the girl would find herself unwelcome in the dormitory.

HIGH SCHOOLS SHOULD NOT ALLOW MARRIED GIRLS TO ATTEND SCHOOL.

(41) If a high school girl gets married while in high school, she should not be permitted to return to high school.

JUDGMENT	Delinquents		Non-Delinquents	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree and Agree	71	20.4	47	25.6
Undecided	42	12.1	14	7.9
Strongly Disagree and Disagree	234	67.5	116	65.5
Total	347	100.0	177	100.0

In spite of the fact that no delinquency is involved when a girl marries while she is in high school, serious objections have been raised about her return to school after marriage. It appears that the married girl would have some type of undesirable influence on the students.

About one-fourth of the non-delinquents, 25.6 percent, maintained that the girl should not be permitted to return after marriage and 20.4 percent of the delinquents agreed with this view. The percent undecided was small, 7.9 percent of the non-delinquents and 12.1 percent for the delinquent.

More than two-thirds in both groups maintained that the girl should be allowed to return to school, 67.5 percent of the delinquents and 65.5 percent of the non-delinquents. Strongest approval for return appeared among the men in the penitentiary with 72.5 percent. The largest percentage opposed to the return was among the B-P Women with 31.1 percent and 29.6 percent of the training school girls. The women seemed to be more critical than the men.

In an over-all sense, more than two-thirds of the respondents were in favor of permitting the married girl to return to high school.

FORMER PRISONERS AND TRAINING SCHOOL INMATES
DO NOT MAKE GOOD SERVICE MEN.

- (23) It is my considered judgment that boys who have served time in a state training school make "poor" soldiers and sailors in the armed forces of the nation.

JUDGMENT	Delinquents		Non-Delinquents	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree and Agree	15	4.3	11	6.2
Undecided	35	10.1	77	43.5
Strongly Disagree and Disagree	297	85.6	89	50.3
Total	347	100.0	177	100.0

Whereas some former prisoners and training school boys gained recognition, with some earning the Purple Heart, in World War II, the general over-all experience in England and in the United States has been that most deviants do not make good service men. This does not detract from those who have gained valor, but the results for the large number are quite different.

Judgments among the two groups of respondents were divided. Only 4.3 percent of the delinquents and 6.2 percent of the non-delinquents agreed with the statement that they did make "poor service men." Only 10.1 percent of the delinquents were undecided, but 43.5 percent of the non-delinquents were uncertain. A few more than one-half, 50.3 percent, of the non-delinquents disagreed with the statement, therefore, maintaining that the inmates did make good soldiers. The percentage for the delinquents was much higher with 85.6 percent believing that they made good records in the military.

As is to be expected, the delinquents took a much more favorable view than the non-delinquents. Only 9 percent of the non-delinquents "strongly disagreed" with the statement, i.e., maintaining that they did make good soldiers. Among training school girls, those who strongly disagreed ran as high as 62.9 percent and to 56.3 percent among the boys.

In the main, both groups maintained that former training school inmates would make good service men.

HAVE CHURCH MEMBERS FORGOTTEN THE DELINQUENTS IN THE COMMUNITY?

- (27) It has been my observation that most church people are so busy doing church work that they do not have time to be of any help to delinquents in the community.

JUDGMENT	Delinquents		Non-Delinquents	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree and Agree	135	38.9	78	44.0
Undecided	57	16.5	24	13.6
Strongly Disagree and Disagree	155	44.6	75	42.4
Total	347	100.0	177	100.0

Among the agencies in a community, the church has often been singled out as doing very little to deal with the problem of delinquency. This may be due to the fact that so much has been expected of church members.

Viewpoints expressed on the statement varied by age and sex of the respondents. Older offenders and non-delinquents were more critical than the younger persons in both groups. More than one-third, 38.9 percent, of the delinquents and 44 percent of the non-delinquents maintained that church people did not have time to help the delinquents in the community. Of the delinquents, 16.5 percent were undecided as were 13.6 percent of the non-delinquents. Less than half disagreed with the statement, 44.6 percent of the delinquents and 42.4 percent of the non-delinquents.

Of all the groups, the older men in the penitentiary were most critical of church people as 55.9 percent agreed with the statement that church members were not helping delinquents. Next highest were the B-P Women where 49.4 percent agreed with the view expressed. Of all groups, the training school girls were most sympathetic where 70.3 percent disagreed indicating that church members were helping delinquents in the community.

In general, less than half of the persons in both groups maintained that church members were helping delinquents in their own community. The majority were undecided or of the opposite opinion.

PART FIVE

REMEDIES FOR JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

DOES A CURFEW TEND TO CURB DELINQUENCY?

- (10) It is my belief that a curfew serves little purpose and does no good in controlling delinquency.

JUDGMENT	Delinquents		Non-Delinquents	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree and Agree	186	53.6	69	39.0
Undecided	45	13.0	21	11.9
Strongly Disagree and Disagree	116	33.4	87	49.1
Total	347	100.0	177	100.0

Local authorities have various opinions about the effectiveness of the curfew in controlling delinquency. Some favor the use of the curfew and others do not. More than half, 53.6 percent, of the delinquents and 39 percent of the non-delinquents agreed that a curfew does not tend to curb delinquency in a community. About one-third of the delinquents, 33.4 percent, and 49.1 percent of the non-delinquents maintained that the curfew did control the amount of delinquency in a community. About the same percentage in each group were undecided, 13 percent of the delinquents and 11.9 percent of the non-delinquents. The percentage of those "strongly agreeing" with the curfew was higher for the delinquents, 21.9 percent, than for the non-delinquents, 8.5 percent. Opposition to the statement was highest among the B-P Women where 55.7 percent maintained that the curfew did curb delinquency.

In general, more than half of the delinquents and about one-third of the non-delinquents maintained that the curfew was ineffective in dealing with delinquency in a community. Almost half of the delinquents held that it did tend to curb delinquency.

WOULD CHANGES IN THE CHILD LABOR LAWS DECREASE DELINQUENCY?

- (9) If the child labor laws were revised in order to allow teenagers in the city to work, there would be less delinquency among city children.

JUDGMENT	Delinquents		Non-Delinquents	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree and Agree	227	65.4	90	50.8
Undecided	48	13.8	34	19.2
Strongly Disagree and Disagree	72	20.8	53	30.0
Total	347	100.0	177	100.0

A number of officials have maintained that if certain young people were allowed to go to work at a younger age, they would not be forced to attend school where they are wasting time and getting into trouble.

More than two-thirds, 65.4 percent, of the delinquents and about one-half of the non-delinquents, 50.8 percent, believed that if the child labor laws were changed, there would be less delinquency. Those undecided amounted to 13.8 percent for the delinquents and 19.2 percent for the remaining group. Disagreement or opposition to changing the labor laws amounted to 20.8 percent of the delinquents and 30 percent of the non-delinquents. Agreement with the expressed view or in favor of changing the laws was highest for the training school boys, 76.7 percent, and the girls, 75 percent, but only 59.4 percent of the men in the penitentiary were of the same opinion. Of the B-P Women, 55.8 percent favored a change in the laws, but only 47 percent of the university students held to the same view.

In general, both groups favored a change in the child labor laws which they thought would decrease delinquency.

LOWERING THE AGE OF COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE
WOULD DECREASE DELINQUENCY.

(14) If the age of compulsory school attendance were reduced from 16 to 14 years, there would be less delinquency.

JUDGMENT	Delinquents		Non-Delinquents	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree and Agree	34	9.8	8	4.4
Undecided	46	13.2	9	5.1
Strongly Disagree and Disagree	267	77.0	160	90.5
Total	347	100.0	177	100.0

In addition to changing the child labor laws, some authorities have favored lowering the age of compulsory school attendance from 16 to 14 years. This would allow certain groups of children to leave school who are not using their time to good advantage. At the same time, these maladjusted children could go to work or take up some other type of "on-the-job training."

Less than one-tenth, 9.8 percent, of the delinquents and 4.4 percent of the non-delinquents favored a change in the age level. Of the delinquents, 13.2 percent were undecided as were 5.1 percent of the non-delinquents. More than three-fourths, 77 percent, of the delinquents and 90.5 percent of the non-delinquents disagreed with the expressed view favoring a change in the age level. About one-fifth, 20.3 percent, of the training school girls wanted to change the age level, but only 4.7 percent of the men in the reformatory and penitentiary agreed with them. The strongest opposition to changing the age level came from the university students where 95 percent disagreed with the statement.

In the Camp Hill study, Snyder asked the 486 boys, "If you had been permitted to leave school, would it have helped in keeping you out of trouble?" Of the 486 boys, 74 percent stated "yes" and 26 percent indicated "no"

Of the 524 respondents in the present survey, the great majority were opposed to lowering the age of compulsory school attendance.

WOULD THE INCREASE OF PARENTAL RESPECT DECREASE DELINQUENCY?

(33) If parents would demand and get more respect from their children, there would be less delinquency.

JUDGMENT	Delinquents		Non-Delinquents	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree and Agree	264	76.0	150	84.9
Undecided	36	10.4	13	7.3
Strongly Disagree and Disagree	47	13.6	14	7.8
Total	347	100.0	177	100.0

Many authorities have pointed out that as parental respect on the part of youth has decreased, delinquency has increased. They, therefore, advocate restoration of respect for parents as a means to remedy the problem.

A very large percentage of the delinquents and the non-delinquents agreed that if there were more respect for parents delinquency would decrease. More than three-fourths, 76 percent, of the delinquents and 84.9 percent of the non-delinquents agreed to the statement. Among the delinquents, 10.4 percent were undecided as were 7.3 percent of the others. A few more disagreed with the statement that increase in parental respect would not lessen delinquency, 13.6 percent of the delinquents and 7.8 percent of the non-delinquents.

The highest percentage of approval of the statement appeared among the B-P Women with 97.4 percent whereas only 73.6 percent of the men in the penitentiary approved. Among the training school girls, 18.5 percent disagreed as did 15.5 percent of the boys. Almost one-fifth, 19 percent, of the men in the penitentiary did not agree.

In general, both groups maintained that if parents would demand and get more respect from their children, there would be less delinquency.

FATHERS SHOULD PLAY A MORE IMPORTANT PART IN
THE CONTROL AND DISCIPLINE OF THE CHILDREN.

- (37) Recently fathers have left the control and discipline of children in the hands of the mothers. If fathers would reassert their position and take over a more masculine control of the children, there would be less delinquency.

JUDGMENT	Delinquents		Non-Delinquents	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree and Agree	232	66.9	128	72.3
Undecided	60	17.3	30	16.9
Strongly Disagree and Disagree	55	15.8	19	10.7
Total	347	100.0	177	100.0

Closely related to the problem of respect for parents is the role of the father in the control and discipline of the children.

About two-thirds, 66.9 percent, of the delinquents and 72.3 percent of the non-delinquents believed that fathers should resume their rightful role in the family. The percentage of those undecided was about the same in each group, 17.3 percent for the delinquents and 16.9 percent for the other group. Only 10.7 percent of the non-delinquents and 15.8 percent of the delinquents did not agree with the proposal.

The age factor appeared in each of the two groups. Whereas 80.4 percent of the B-P Women agreed with the statement, only 66 percent of the university students were of the same opinion. Of the delinquents, 24 percent of the girls and 18.4 percent of the boys in the training school disagreed, but only 10.5 percent of the men in the penitentiary disapproved of the expressed view.

About two-thirds of the delinquents and three-fourths of the non-delinquents maintained that the father should play a more important role in the family affairs.

SHOULD MOTHERS WORKING OUTSIDE OF THE HOME QUIT THEIR WORK?

- (32) If working mothers would quit working outside the home and take care of their children, there would be less delinquency.

JUDGMENT	Delinquents		Non-Delinquents	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree and Agree	254	73.2	140	79.1
Undecided	45	13.0	18	10.2
Strongly Disagree and Disagree	48	13.8	19	10.7
Total	347	100.0	177	100.0

The absentee working mother has been considered a key factor in the cause of delinquency.

Almost three-fourths, 73.2 percent, of the delinquents and 79.1 percent of the non-delinquents maintained that delinquency would decrease if working mothers would quit work outside the home and return to the care of their children. About one-tenth, 10.2 percent, of the non-delinquents and 13 percent of the delinquents were undecided. Almost the same percentage disagreed, 10.7 percent of the non-delinquents and 13.8 percent of the delinquents.

As in the previous item, the age differential tended to modify viewpoints. Only 68.8 percent of the B-P Women agreed with the statement, but 87.0 percent of the students approved. Also 82 percent of the men in the penitentiary agreed, but only 63 percent of the boys in the training school were of the same opinion. Of the B-P Women, 16.8 percent registered the strong disagreement as did 21.4 percent of the training school boys.

In general, both the delinquents and the non-delinquents favored the mother's return to the home.

ARE IDLE HANDS THE TOOLS OF THE DEVIL?

- (34) If children today had to work as did their parents when they were young, there would be less delinquency today among today's teenagers.

JUDGMENT	Delinquents		Non-Delinquents	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree and Agree	232	66.9	120	67.8
Undecided	53	15.2	24	13.5
Strongly Disagree and Disagree	62	17.9	33	18.7
Total	347	100.0	177	100.0

Many individuals have maintained that children today have too much idle time and that youthful employment would tend to lessen deviant behavior among children.

Approximately two-thirds of both groups, 66.9 percent of the delinquents and 67.8 percent of the non-delinquents, agreed with "more work for youth." Only 17.9 percent of the delinquents and 18.7 percent of the non-delinquents disagreed with the view. Of the delinquents, 15.2 percent were undecided as were 13.5 percent of the other group.

Age tended to influence the judgment for the non-delinquent group since 87 percent of the B-P Women agreed, but only 53 percent of the university students agreed. Disagreement with the statement was highest for students, 28 percent, and for the men in the penitentiary, 24.9 percent.

There are no conclusive facts to prove or disprove the statement, but in the Camp Hill investigation H. A. Snyder asked, "If you had had a job do you think that could have kept you out of trouble?" Of the 486 boys, 73 percent answered "yes" and 27 percent "no."

In general, both the delinquents and the non-delinquents cooperating in the present investigation agreed that if youth were employed more, there would be less delinquency.

DO CHILDREN TODAY HAVE TOO MUCH EASY MONEY?

- (31) If we had another serious financial depression like the 1930's, it would take away a lot of easy money and teenagers would realize how much a dollar is really worth. This would decrease easy money and delinquency would decrease.

JUDGMENT	Delinquents		Non-Delinquents	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree and Agree	101	29.1	57	32.2
Undecided	73	21.0	30	16.9
Strongly Disagree and Disagree	173	49.9	90	50.9
Total	347	100.0	177	100.0

"Too much easy money" has been taken as a factor related to the increase in delinquency. Some maintain that if children today really knew the value of a dollar as did their parents during the Great Depression of the 30's, there would be less delinquency today.

Less than one-third, 32.2 percent, of the non-delinquents and 29.1 percent of the delinquents agreed with the "easy money" idea. About one-fifth, 21 percent, of the delinquents and 16.9 percent of the non-delinquents were undecided. Almost half, 49.9 percent, of the delinquents disagreed as did 50.9 percent of the non-delinquents.

There were noticeable variations in age groups. Of the non-delinquents, 63 percent of the university students disagreed whereas only 34.9 percent of the B-P Women disagreed. Among the delinquents, 70.2 percent of the men in the penitentiary disapproved of the statement, but only 35.2 percent of the training school girls disagreed.

In general, about one-half of the respondents in both groups maintained that "easy money" had no connection to the delinquency problem today.

TOO MUCH CRIME IN THE MOVIES AND ON THE TV SCREEN

- (11) Glamorized crime and gangster shows on TV programs and in the movies tend to give youngsters ideas and tend to increase delinquency.

JUDGMENT	Delinquents		Non-Delinquents	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree and Agree	180	51.9	102	57.6
Undecided	41	11.8	26	14.7
Strongly Disagree and Disagree	126	36.3	49	27.7
Total	347	100.0	177	100.0

Glamorized crime stories in the movies and on TV programs have often been taken as an important contributing factor to delinquency.

More than half in each group, 51.9 percent of the delinquents and 57.6 percent of the non-delinquents, maintained that glamorized crime stories in the movies and on TV programs increase delinquency. Of the delinquents, 11.8 percent were undecided as were 14.7 percent of the non-delinquents. About one-third, 36.3 percent, of the delinquents did not agree with the statement as did 27.7 percent of the non-delinquents.

The older persons in both groups displayed stronger agreement than the younger respondents. Of the non-delinquents, 84.3 percent of the B-P Women agreed with the statement, but only 37 percent of the university students were of the same opinion. In fact, 44 percent of the students disagreed, but only 6.5 percent of the women disagreed. Among delinquents, 66.4 percent of the men in the penitentiary agreed, but only 41.8 percent of the training school boys agreed. Disagreement was high among the boys, 45.6 percent.

Slightly more than half the respondents in each group agreed that there was too much glamorized crime on TV programs and in the movies.

LESS TALK IN HIGH PLACES AND MORE ACTION AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

- (42) It is a good idea to hold state and national conferences on the prevention of delinquency but when people attending these meetings return to their communities, nothing is done about the problem children in the town.

JUDGMENT	Delinquents		Non-Delinquents	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree and Agree	218	62.8	105	59.3
Undecided	78	22.4	47	26.5
Strongly Disagree and Disagree	51	14.8	25	14.2
Total	347	100.0	177	100.0

The view has often been expressed that people do a lot of talking in state and national meetings, but very little happens at the community level where the delinquency problem exists. There is a lot of talk but very little action.

About two-thirds, 62.8 percent, of the delinquents and a few more than half, 59.3 percent, of the non-delinquents agreed with the statement. Of the delinquents, 22.4 percent were undecided as were 26.5 percent of the non-delinquents. Only 14.8 percent of the delinquents and 14.2 percent of the non-delinquents disagreed with the expressed view.

Of all groups, the men in the penitentiary were most critical since 71.2 percent were in agreement with the statement. University students ranked second of which 62 percent were in agreement.

Both groups of respondents maintained that conferences on prevention are good ideas, but more needs to be done at the local level in order to prevent delinquency.

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