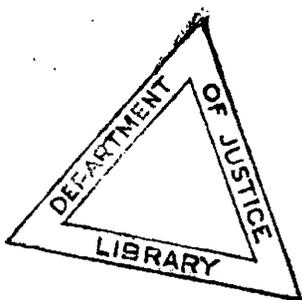


FOR RELEASE ON DELIVERY

ADDRESS

BY

HONORABLE HERBERT BROWNELL, JR.
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES



Prepared for Delivery

at

Dedication of the New Campus
New Haven State Teachers College

New Haven, Connecticut

Sunday, October 18, 1953

3 P.M.

It is a genuine pleasure to join with you today in the dedication of this fine educational center for the growing New Haven State Teachers College. It is a double pleasure -- in fact I might say a triple pleasure -- to be here. First, I find a real satisfaction in participating in a ceremony which marks for my brother another milestone of solid achievement in his professional career; second, my visit recalls those years (a quarter of a century ago) which I spent in the Law School of Yale University, and third, what you are doing here fits into my personal belief that we need more and better schools and teachers to keep this country strong and wholesome.

The speakers preceding me have demonstrated that a great deal of thought, planning and money goes into a plant such as you have here. How different from what the situation was early in the days of New Haven colony. Your hardy ancestors, even when faced with starvation and the fighting of the elements, realized the necessity for free education. But the budget problems of maintaining the school system were on a very different scale.

The early town fathers of your west shore neighbor, Milford, they tell me, expressed a desire for more advanced instruction in their township. After study, they led the town on December 27, 1697, to appropriate thirty pounds "to maintain a Latin school if it can be attained, and the matter of a school and the providing of a school master is to select men to act therein on the advice of the honorable Governor and the Reverend Mr. Samuel Andrew, and to see that the school is daily attended by a good master and by scholars that need learning." Now that move added thirty-five pounds to a previous appropriation of thirty pounds to support a school the entire year.

We hear people today complain that local taxes are too heavy a burden, and one of the first targets of the malcontents is the local school system. They object to the gymnasium, the elaborate laboratories for the classes in chemistry, and other parts of the plant which they would like to call window dressing.

Actually, the expenditures for schools are but a minor part of the appropriations by the cities and towns of the United States. The good that comes from them far outweighs all other expenditures.

Expenditures for teachers' salaries are low in comparison with the value obtained. It shocked me, indeed, to read recently some of the statistics on teachers' salaries prepared by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. We pay messengers in the Department of Justice more per year than a goodly number of our trained teachers get in some parts of our country.

No wonder then that the teaching profession does not have the full attraction for the youth who might otherwise adopt it as a lifetime career. Despite the low material return, people of character, initiative and culture such as yourselves go into it. I hope in time that teachers' salaries will increasingly be commensurate with their performance for good.

We at the United States Department of Justice have an official concern in the improvement of schools and teacher training in this country. For our school teachers are one of the bulwarks against the rising tide of juvenile delinquency.

This tide is worse than a plague. If it were a plague, our modern medicine could halt it. But, unfortunately, there is no ever-working antidote for delinquency among our youth.

There is every sign that more than one million children will be in trouble serious enough to require the police to pick them up this year.

Do you see people jumping up everywhere to see what can be done about it? I don't, but I do know that they would jump into action if there were danger of plague. When it comes to juvenile delinquency, there has been too much holding back with the idea of letting someone else take the necessary steps to combat it.

The countermeasures, of course, must come from sources closest to the individual child. This means parents, teachers and the church, as well as the police who in recent years have developed a greater understanding of the problem and who are doing their best to do something about it. Now, when I speak of police efforts, I am not talking about arrests and subsequent juvenile court appearances. I am talking about the police-sponsored athletic leagues and boys' clubs, and other neighborhood enterprises which they have undertaken.

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Director of our Federal Bureau of Investigation, tells me that New England now leads not only in juvenile delinquency prevention, but also in prevention of crime committed by persons of all ages. He attributes the decreasing rate, small now but possibly to be greater in the future, on the high caliber of officers and men of police departments throughout the six-state area. I believe, too, that the high standards of teacher training in this area are a great factor.

The real breakdown leading to juvenile delinquency naturally occurs in the home. It comes through lack of parental interest in the welfare of the child and, even more so, from broken homes. These are the basic roots of the trouble.

What happens then? The breakdown at home places a still greater burden on the schools, the churches and, unfortunately, upon our FBI and Bureau of Prisons, as well as police throughout the country, Instead of being supplements to the rearing of the child, the schools and churches now all too often have to adopt the initial role in the full training of the child.

Mr. Hoover said recently in a recent issue of the Syracuse Law Review that ". . . the solution to the problem of juvenile delinquency lies in intelligent, coordinated adult action -- action which demands full cooperation of adult society, social agencies and law enforcement."

He spoke our official viewpoint when he added:

"The community educational system, which is charged with the care and guidance of the child during a major part of his wakeful hours must be staffed with competent teachers who are capable of recognizing and assisting 'problem children,' capable of inspiring their charges to strive for betterment of both mind and soul. The teacher should be quick to recognize the abilities and interests of the child. Not only should he help his pupils to master their classwork, but he should encourage them to pursue their special interests and to develop their abilities for the benefit of society."

It was not until the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries that there became a real awareness of the responsibility of adults in meeting the needs of children and sheltering them from evil influences.

Real concern came in New York City a century ago, for instance, when with a population of less than one million, there were between 20 thousand and 30 thousand homeless and vagrant youth.

Now, we are faced with a juvenile delinquency rate of more than what the population of New York City was a century ago. Even then, it was a big city.

Actually, last year, 33,612 youngsters under fifteen years of age were arrested for a variety of crimes. Those fifteen years of age arrested numbered 13,686, but the number arrested began to rise with those aged sixteen to a peak of 30,272 of those aged twenty-four. So, even then, those under fifteen were the greater in number.

Twelve of those under fifteen were charged with murder. The greatest number, nearly eight thousand, were charged with burglary. It is a sad thing -- not only for the children involved, but for the Nation as a whole.

Numbers arrested is only one measure of the social disease about which our communities are all too complacent. The cost of crime adds to billions of dollars yearly. One authority says it runs as high as fifteen billions of dollars. And the figures show that more than half of the present adult criminals have a past history of juvenile delinquency, so you can just imagine what lies ahead. Some people say they are not too concerned with the figures because the

child population has been growing and must be taken into account. That has been taken into account. It is true that the number of children of the juvenile court age, generally ten to seventeen, increased between 1948 and 1951. The gain in this age group of our population was five percent, but the number of juvenile court cases jumped seventeen percent, or more than three times the population growth.

The prospect for the future is frightening, if there is no change in the trend. By 1960, there will be forty-two percent more boys than girls aged ten to seventeen than there were in 1951. A sobering question then is whether the number of delinquent children also will increase forty-two percent by 1960. The pace could be even greater if the trend of the last few years continues. Suppose we had to increase our police forces, court facilities, detention centers and probation services forty-two percent. This is a frightening prospect in terms of dollars. And it is more vastly frightening when we consider the health of the Nation.

The major work to meet this problem must be done in the community. However, the Federal Government can and will help. Senator Hendrickson of New Jersey and members of his committee are now ready to go forward with a bi-partisan study of the problem. If it does nothing more than to alert the Nation to the need for action, it will have accomplished much. But, I am sure that the work of this committee will accomplish even more than that. The Children's Bureau, in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare under Mrs. Hobby, already has done much great work in recent months. The Bureau has brought

together in a series of meetings a wide range of experts from agencies, professions and citizens' groups dealing directly with delinquency. They are the police, the courts, training schools, educators, physicians, social workers, and citizen organizations. Their purpose is to draw up lines of action for improving the treatment of youngsters already marked as juvenile delinquents.

Since taking office as Attorney General, I have implemented an unused Act of Congress which provided for a new method of handling youngsters who come into conflict with Federal criminal laws. Under this Federal Youth Corrections Act the President has appointed a new Federal Board of Parole of seven members who, after being unanimously confirmed by the Senate, took office August 7 last. In this Parole Board has been established the Youth Division provided by the Act. This Division soon will be providing for better rehabilitation work designed to salvage the lives of youngsters. The program is the outgrowth of splendid planning by the American Law Institute and the Judicial Conference of the United States. One of the judges who participated in this careful planning was your own Judge Carroll C. Hincks, who only recently was appointed by the President to the Bench of the Second Circuit Court of Appeals.

The new Act rejected the basically punitive approach characteristic of the administration of justice for hundreds of years. The traditional methods have fallen short of their objective and do not offer full protection to society.

Under the new system, Federal Judges have a completely new tool to apply to those under age twenty-two who have violated Federal law. They may continue to give probation to the more hopeful offenders and they still may provide sentence for adults, under law.

A youth sentenced under any of the new provisions will be placed in a classification center where a group of trained specialists will study him and send reports to the Director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons. The Director, on the basis of these reports, will recommend to the newly created Board of Parole a program of treatment for its consideration. The Board, cooperating with the Director of the Bureau of Prisons, will then determine an institutional program for the offender.

During treatment, there will be periodic reports and recommendations of the Bureau of Prisons to the Youth Division. The Board in turn will determine whether further treatment is necessary and under what conditions the offender may be released. Conditional release of all youth offenders on unconditional discharge rests exclusively with the Division.

Contemplated in the program are a wide variety of aids such as schools, hospitals, forestry and other camps. There will be special training programs under public or private auspices for the young and sometimes accidental offenders.

Another new feature is the provision that every youth be returned to his home or some place selected for him, when conditionally released, at least two years before the end of his commitment period.

Through this, there will be continuing help in applying the training and education he has received. The responsibility for this necessary guidance after release will not rest with professionally-trained workers alone. The Act permits enlistment of volunteer sponsors who can share in reclaiming young lives. These sponsors would be sought among the intelligent, stable and well-adjusted private citizens willing to aid in the program. This provision was adopted by Congress because it recognized that the community must recognize some responsibility. There is no doubt that many private citizens can make a real contribution to the lives of youngsters who previously had no one to whom they could turn for capable help and counsel.

We recognize the police as the first-aid force in the community juvenile delinquency problem. The ordinary policeman does not have, nor should he be expected to have, any special training in handling youngsters. At the present time, only one in six communities has a sufficient number of juvenile police officers. The majority of cities fail to require any qualifications for appointment to juvenile work other than those for the police work in general.

One of the first things we must do then, is to make sure that our police departments have a special juvenile division with a well-trained staff.

This year up to one hundred thousand youngsters probably will be held in jails while awaiting court action, because jails are the only place they can be held in most communities. In these jails the impressionable youngster is often thrown in with hardened criminals. And at

this point, I would like to point out that of the more than three thousand jails inspected by the Federal Bureau of Prisons, less than one-fourth could be approved even for the use of adults.

With this in mind, we advocate that no child be put in a jail. Instead, there should be decent and suitable detention facilities with constructive programs where children can be looked after by trained and experienced workers interested and skilled in getting at the child's particular problem. We also advocate foster family homes. It is possible under our new Federal Youth Corrections Act for the Parole Board to place convicted children in homes of families after the initial phase of rehabilitation.

The third field involves the juvenile court. Judges of these courts should have assistance of trained staff for gathering information about children and for supervising their treatment in the community. More than half the counties in the Nation fail to offer probation service to the Judge and to the delinquents. A 1950 study of juvenile probation officers showed that only one out of ten had completed his social work training. Here is an area in which we must raise standards and practices.

We have also so far neglected our training schools for delinquent children who need treatment away from homes and communities. Facilities and staff to give individual attention to each boy and girl are lacking. Individual attention is needed to provide them with constructive educational, spiritual and psychological programs.

A final point I must make is that we have left our various state and local agencies to struggle with their problems in their own separate ways without the benefit of any opportunity for teamwork. There is an urgent need for some mechanism for close collaboration if a good treatment job is to be done for the children who pass through their hands.

All of this is a matter of money. Naturally, it is going to cost money if we are going to have more and better trained juvenile police officers, more and better detention facilities, more and better trained probation services, and more expertly staffed training schools. I also add to this the need for more and better public schools.

At the same time, we must recognize that a little more money spent now for good services may save us many times the amount in future reduction of the tremendous crime bill we face. And more important still, it will mean that young lives will be turned from twisted, anti-social behavior to responsible citizenship. You, as the coming leaders in the field of public education, must give increased attention to a program of education which will help keep our youth away from conflict with the law. Law and education must go forward together if we are to accomplish the goal of an informed citizenry living under a government of laws, with equal opportunity for all to enjoy our constitutional freedoms.