

# Juvenile Court Judges' Conference

Paul M. Hebert

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It was Ruskin who wrote "Youth is the period of building up in habits, and hopes and faiths - not an hour but is trembling with destinies; not a moment, once past, of which the appointed work can ever be done again, or the neglected blow struck on the cold <sup>IRON</sup> ~~ice~~."

And, it has been fittingly said that "when we are out of sympathy with the young, then I think our work in this world is over."

Thoughts such as these are bound to be uppermost in the minds of this important group of judges as you gather this morning in a spirit of common dedication, determined by an exchange of ideas in this Institute to continue your work for the improvement of Juvenile Court proceedings. The precious asset of youth, still present in the juvenile offender, through your mission discharged with understanding, with sympathy, and with the social consciousness characteristic of the able Juvenile Judge, is directed and re-directed to most constructive ends. Your realization of the importance of this mission to society is evident by your very presence here this morning and, speaking on behalf of the Law School, it is, indeed, a pleasure to greet you and to welcome you again <sup>to</sup> ~~on~~ this campus for the continuation of your constructive sessions. Louisiana has reason to be proud of the leadership in your ranks. Your contributions to the national understanding of youth problems has been most significant and the highly responsible work of our Louisiana Youth Commission merits the understanding and approbation of all our citizens.

In his survey "Law and a Changing Society" , published some ten years ago, Professor Wolfgang Friedman has commented broadly upon the impact of social changes upon many legal institutions. In the field of the criminal law, he sees the changes in the treatment of juvenile offenders as a revolution of great proportions resulting from a more enlightened attitude, a more humanitarian

philosophy, and a deeper understanding of the human personality. This is, of course, a continuing process. It is most <sup>ENCOURAGING</sup> encouraged to witness the transition from a primary emphasis upon retribution or punishment per se to the corrective and conservatory measures which you, as Judges, have the task of molding and bringing about. We have witnessed <sup>a</sup> ~~the~~ great growth in the coordination between the exercise of judicial authority and the efforts of the various administrative authorities working the area of child welfare. There are, indeed, critics of the blurring of the line between the judicial process and the administrative process in the child welfare field. No one would deny that there are significant problems in this area, some of which are perhaps inherent in the very philosophy of the Juvenile <sup>Court</sup> ~~movement~~ <sup>B</sup> but problems are solved by discussion and this Institute affords a proper and valuable forum for the <sup>consideration</sup> ~~discussion~~ of problems common to those who seek to serve Society in the varied facets which touch our youth. Solid gains present in the processes of combining preventive, educational and corrective methods in dealing with the problems of youths must not be sacrificed. <sup>This process must continue to flourish and to grow.</sup> Your discussions here today and tomorrow will constitute, I am sure, important contributions to this preservation of the gains to which I refer. To that end, you have our best wishes for a stimulating program to which we add the hearty welcome of the LSU Law School.

Juvenile Court Judges  
 March 28, 1969

Conference -  
Juvenile  
Judges  
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Louisiana citizens who are interested in the tremendous importance of the field of <sup>Child</sup> ~~social~~ welfare have witnessed with applause the splendid pioneering work being done in juvenile court administration in our separate juvenile Courts of Caddo and Orleans Parish where we have been fortunate to have the leadership and vision shown by such outstanding judges as Judge Barnette, the President of your association and Judge Blessing. We consider ourselves equally fortunate in the broad humane outlook of <sup>many of</sup> our able district and city judges who are called upon to exercise jurisdiction in matters affecting juveniles. There is abroad in Louisiana, as I believe there is in many states, a growing awareness of the necessity of complete cooperation, understanding, and the pooling of efforts by judges, probation officers, social workers, educators, the public and religious workers, if we are to adequately deal with the myriad of <sup>DIFFICULTIES</sup> ~~problems~~ which confront those who are working with the problems presented by many of our juveniles. ~~There~~ is an area of the law and of court administration in which broad human understanding is peculiarly needed. No one knows better than the juvenile judge, as he goes about performing his tremendous responsibilities, that at times he is expected to be able to see a case with the eyes of a physician, a psychologist, or a social worker. He, the juvenile judge, sees, at first hand, how such objective features as environment, family background, economic and social status, associations, recreation, school life, and the influence of religion are a foundation for the treatment of the individual child <sup>Case</sup> in the midst of his human relationships. These truisms, so familiar to this group of Juvenile Court Judges - serve <sup>general</sup> to make particularly appropriate the <sup>general</sup> topic you have selected for this afternoon's program devoted to the "Joint Responsibility and Opportunity

of Juvenile Courts and Social Agencies." We have six speakers on the panel this afternoon. I will, therefore, keep the introduction at the barest minimum for each speaker so as to leave time for the discussion which the panel proposes to provoke.

*a member of the Executive Committee of your ~~Association~~ Council*

To represent the viewpoint of the juvenile courts - I am happy to present the Honorable W. S. Criswell, Judge of the Juvenile Court, Duval County, Jacksonville, Florida.

Thank you very much, Judge Criswell - We will follow the procedure of reserving questions until the panel presentation has been completed. Representing the viewpoint and experience of Court officers - it is a privilege to present now: Mr. Tully McCrea, <sup>formerly</sup> Director of Probation, Orleans Parish Juvenile Court. *and now as it is Nat Prob + Parole comm*

*for the same Regs*

*Not here*

Thank you Mr. McCrea. To comment upon our topic as a representative of interested community agencies, I take pleasure in presenting Miss Mary Raymond, Executive Secretary of the Council of Social Agencies, New Orleans. Miss Raymond.

*Miss Raymond*

*Baker*

*Miss*

Thank you Miss Raymond. To tell us something of the viewpoint of the Welfare Agencies we have fortunately available this afternoon, Miss Inez Baker, New Orleans, Louisiana, Supervisor of the Children's Division of the Department of Public Welfare.

Thank you Miss Baker. Representing the viewpoint of our lay citizens, we are now pleased to present a member of the Louisiana Youth Commission - Mrs. G. W. Pomeroy of Ruston, Louisiana.

Thank you Mrs. Pomeroy - I now have the honor of introducing my colleague, who I see, has been grossly libeled in this program. He is called a dean. To summarize the panel, I take pleasure in introducing Dr. Earl E. Klein, Director of the School of Social Welfare of Louisiana State University. - Dr. Klein.

Discussion from the floor.

Announcements.

Service to the child in  
trouble and to  
his family -

Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences:

Twenty years ago the Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences was able to conclude:

"European juvenile courts in general, although they received their impetus from American ideals of state guardianship, have been more critically aware of the original objectives; they have developed uniform procedures closer to the civil side of the law than have American juvenile courts, ~~which fluctuate between civil and criminal methods and are more dependent on the personality of judges, changes in public opinion and politics.~~ which fluctuate between civil and criminal methods and are more dependent on the personality of judges, changes in public opinion and politics. The juvenile court in the United States is midway between two goals. It may develop into an agency of protection of the rights of childhood. In this case it will not administer treatment directly but will cooperate with schools, clinics and public welfare departments, all of them forming together a board of strategy to work for the best interests of the child. On the other hand, the juvenile court may become a criminal tribunal, hearing only serious cases which public and private social agencies have failed to prevent. In either case the outcome will be similar. By introducing the scientific study of cases, by individualization of treatment, by use of probation and by quickening the sense of collective responsibility for the neglected and forsaken child the juvenile court method has permeated the criminal court and has put its yeast into the entire system of justice."

Miriam Van Waters.