

Religion ; Protestant
Lived in Budapest all her life in the VIII district (this is a working-class district of the city)
School attended; 2 grades public school
Parents and one sister aged 11 are with her in the US.
Grandparents remained in Hungary.
Family lives at Passaic N.J. the kids attend St. Stephens parochial school there. Subject was enrolled in the 3rd grade, but must repeat it this Fall, owing to language difficulties.

III. The School Situation.

"What can you tell me about your school in Hungary?"

1. "Which were the subjects?"

"We had arithmetics, writing, composition, reading, gymn, singing. Also we had a class for conversations."

"What do you mean by this? What did you talk about and with whom?"

"It was the headmistress with whom we had this class, but I cannot remember what we talked about."

"Which was your favorite subject?"

Reading" Why? "Just because I liked reading."

"What did you read at the reading class?"

" I can't remember," she said at first and then after some meditation, she whispered:"stories about the little duck and other stories."

2. Teachers.

"Who were your teachers?"

"I had only one teacher, she was a lady teacher she taught all subjects. I liked her very much, because she was nice."

"Did they treat all children equally?"

"I dont know."

Did you have any teachers who were communists?"

"I don't know."

"By the way, can you tell me who is a wommunist?"

(long silence then:) "somebody who works a great deal"

3. Classmates

Who were your friends, or rather who was your best friend?
"It was Judy." What sort of a girl was she? who was her father?

"He was a janitor" (said the child's mother, the child could not tell.)

Why did you like her? Because she was a very good little girl."

Subject was unable to give any answers regarding children who "were looked upto", in fact she did not understand even what this means. For apparent reasons - see character description - I did not ask the probing question regarding class background and friendship)

Respondent had no religious instruction at school, nor anywhere else. This I have from the mother, the little girl did not even understand what the word "religion" means.

B. Did you tell your parents what happened at school?

"yes, I did."

C. What about talking about what happened at home when you were at school?

"No I never did". Why? "nobody ever talked about such things."

Tell me now, let us say you are told something at school by the teachers, and then at home your parents tell you that the contrary is true, whom do you believe?

" I rather believe my daddy". Why? " I don't know".

D. What did you do after school?

How long did school last?

"From 8 to 12, but sometimes from 1 to 4 pm."

"After school I went home, and eat something."

Who fed you?

Sometimes granny if she was at home but not always."

Why? "She too was out working , and then I eat alone, and afterwards I joined my mummy at the news-stall where I helped her to sell the newspapers."

Which papers did you sell: (the little girl rattled off the names of the papers without a hitch):

"Nepszava, Ludas Matyi, Szabad Nep, Budapest."

What about the money? Did you collect it too?

"Yes I did. I also gave change if necessary, I knew the money and the prices."

Where and how did you sell the papers?

"I took them to the big hospital which was quite near, and also I made the rounds in the nearby bars, and restaurants."

What did you do then?

"Then we took the streetcar and went home with Mummy."

What next?

"Then I did my homework, I played a bit, had my supper and went to bed."

Did you ever read anything when you had the time?

"Yes, I got books from a lending library that was near."

What kind of books did you read?

"Fairytale." What kind of? "The 77 Hungarian Folk Stories", and also about the flute that had the lovely sound. (this too is a well known Hungarian fairy-tale, Interv.)

(Regarding play with other children according to mother these kids didn't have any time for play, as both children helped her in the sale of newspapers.)

What about the 'Pioneers' did you belong to them? (Mother here said "no", she was too small for that, Pioneers were sworn in only the 3rd grade. She only was a "Pal" and this organization did not hold any meetings etc. for youngsters, yet.)

IV. FAMILY BACKGROUND

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I am going to ask you about your family now, what did your father do for a living?

"He was a turner" (mother said that he worked for the IKARUS Iron and Steel Plant at Matyasfold and later on he worked as a coal loader with one of the coal transportation companies).

(I also have other details regarding their standard of living from the mother, as the little girl could not give a coherent answer.)

The family lived in the VIII district of Pest, a typically working class district, where they had a two room apartment. No bathroom, two very small rooms and a kitchen. This they shared with the husband's mother. Housework was shared by the two women, whoever was at home.

V. REWARDS AND PUNISHMENTS

A. Have you been rewarded at school for good work?

"Yes, but only at the end of the year". How were you rewarded?

"We got a red star", "a big one" (the mother explained that during the year the kids got small paper-stars for every 5 mark, these were collected and for a certain number of them they were given a large red star.)

B. Were you ever punished at school?

"Yes" How? "We had to kneel in the corner, or stand in front of the class room, which was a great shame."

C. Did your parents punish you ever?

"Now and then". What for? "Just for being naughty."

Who punishes you?

"Its usually Mummy, she also gives me a slap now and then, but daddy never."

VI. THE HUNGARIAN REVOLUTION

The child had no notion whatsoever why the revolution broke out, who started it etc.

VII. What would you like to be when you grow up?

"Stewardess"

(She reacted very quickly to this question, it seems that flying has impressed her greatly.)

Why? "I want to go home to visit my Granny.

a. Can you tell me what is a good father like?

"Who is good with his children."

b. What is an ideal teacher like?

"Who is nice with the kids."

c. What does a good mother do?

"Loves me"

What are the three worst things a kid can do?

"Does not study, does not obey his parents, and does not ask permission to leave home."

What are the three most important things a child must be taught?

"To study well at school, to be a good little girl, and to love her parents."

What are the three worst things you could say about someone?

"Naughty, quarrelsome, bad student."

VIII. SPECIAL QUESTION

A. When I asked the kid about the three greatest people in the world, her sister interrupted and said instead of her, and the kid only repeated it after her, so her answer has no value (by the way Kossuth and Petofi, but no third one were mentioned.)

I also drew a blank regarding all other famous Hungarians.

However, when I arrived to the last question: what strikes you as being completely different from Hungary here in the USA? the child, for the first time started talking animatedly:

"Here Mummy can buy me all the dresses, shoes I want. Back home I haven't seen any of those wonderful fruits I get here. At home I received one new dress or a pair of shoes at Christmas only."

What are the things you like most about the US?

"There are such wonderful big houses here, and all those huge automobiles."

What are the things you disapprove of here in the US?

"I like everything here."

THE END