

Date: Aug. 23, 1957
Interviewer:
M. Podhorsky

CHILD INTERVIEW

I. Character Description:

It was extremely difficult to conduct this interview as the child was not only intimidated (despite ice cream and pop-talk) but also she seemed to be a very shy and quiet little girl. On top of everything she is not a bright child (has to repeat the third grade this Fall), which is unusual in Hungarian kids as they adjust very speedily and get on with their studies here well)

Her mother and elder sister (11) came with her and despite I placed them in the other room, they soon came and stood in the door, and the little girl always looked for prompting from them as a result quite frequently did not even try to express her own thoughts.

The only time she sort of "woke up" was when she thought to be different from things back home, here in the US. This was the only time I got a fluent answer of more than one word. Also when I paid the mother it was the little girl who gave me change from her mother's purse, and quite correctly at that. (which is more than sometimes myself can do.) Apparently she helped a lot indeed her mother in selling newspapers.

As to the background of this child, this is the typical Hungarian proletarian background. Father an iron-worker, mother sold newspapers, family lived crammed in small rooms, no bathroom, etc. Nevertheless, good manners, decent up bringing dressed neatly and very simply. Mother does housework for a doctor in Passaic, father works in a factory (locksmith). Both kids attend RC parochial school, despite being Protestants, because parents thought this school to be better than the public school there, where there are "too many Puerto Ricans" against which the mother seems to have a prejudice "they are too dirty" - says she.

II. Personal Inventory.

Age: 8 years
Sex: Female