

THE SCHOOL SITUATION

A. Regarding subjects respondent took, I could get very little information, but finally he admitted after some questioning that he learned his "A.B.C." and to write a little: some arithmetics and that they also had singing and gymn lessons. He then added spontaneously, that he also played "basketball". This I doubt, and I believe that he is mixing up his experiences with school here. Altogether he seems to have forgotten quite a lot of his Hungarian, and switches very often into English. No wonder as he very seldom sees his parents, and after school he sits all day long at the TV all by himself. (This I have from his escort)

The boy shrugged his shoulders and could not give any answer as to which his favorite subjects were and why.

Regarding the teachers he volunteered information that he had a "lady teacher" only who taught everything. He thought her to be "nice".

He also said after much probing, that the teacher was always more strict with boys who were naughty, and who were fighting much in classes, "But I did not" he added.

Whether or not there were any communists among the teachers at school or his classmates, he could not tell. I asked him to tell me who a communist is, and he again said "I don't know, but you know the Communists have imprisoned Daddy". He could not tell for how long his father was arrested. (from his escort I received the information that his father was a member of the Revolutionary Council during the revolution, and they had to flee on the spur of the moment. This was the reason for which they left their boy of 14 back in Hungary as he was not at home at the time they had to flee.

When asked about his classmates, or rather friends at school the boy said "I never had any" and said that he never played with anyone at school and kept to himself. At home, however, "I used to play with a little girl next door, but her mother was very rude with us always, because we had to cook outside as our range was out of order."

I did not put the question regarding which child he would have preferred as a friend as the child was evidently incompetent to answer this question.

He said he attended religious instruction classes while at school, but his escort very much doubts it, she evidently had other information from the parents.

I drew a complete blank regarding what he told his parents about things that happened at home when at school.

D. His after school activities he summed up in: "I helped to fetch the milk for a man I knew. Also I played by myself". He could not tell at all whether or not he did any homework. Altogether the kid must have lead a pretty disorganized life. No home, and no education at all. When asked who took care of him after school, he said: "Nobody has to take care of me, I can take care of myself". However, he pretty readily admitted of having helped his parents in housework. "I helped daddy to build a dog-house and also Mother to wash up the tile floor."

The boy did not belong to any Pioneer movement, "Mother did not want me to join" he said.

IV. As to the family background, as far as I could make out with the assistance of his escort, the father was formerly an auto-mechanic, but having refused to become a Party member, at his working place he somehow got into a conflict with the Party Secretary and as a disciplinary measure they put him into the Tatabanya mines where he worked for the last two years.

The mother of the boy, was severely wounded during the siege of Hungary by a mine, worked also in the mines, operating miners trucks in the mine.

They lived at Tatabanya in the miners settlement where they were allotted one room, in which they cooked also. There was no bathroom or lavatory for the "apartment". The boy slept with his mother "father slept by himself" he said.

V. REWARDS AND PUNISHMENTS

A. Regarding rewards at school the only information I could get from the boy was, that they received good marks in their report for good behavior.

B. As to punishments, he mentioned that they were kept after hours or the teacher also beat up the kids with a stick, he added "but never me".

C. When asked whether or not he was punished by his parents and for what, he said: "Father once beat me up" but I could not make him to tell why.

VI. A. It was quite obvious that the child was unable to answer the question why the Hungarians started the revolution.

B. When asked what impressed him most during the revolution he said "I have seen three tanks, and streetcars all upside down and that the red star was cut out from the Hungarian flag". But he could not give any further information regarding the revolution. His escott told me that his mother took him up to Budapest shortly before the revolution broke out and they got stuck in the capital for about two weeks.

VII.

When asked what he would like to be when he grew up he said: "a miner" / His reasons were: "When I shall be able to load 100 miners trucks then we all shall be rich."

It was quite impossible to get any response from the kid regarding par VII. a reference to what is a good father, teacher or mother like. He just shrugged his shoulders and said: "I don't know".

VIII.

A. When asked who he thought are the three greatest people in the world, he said:
"I only know my daddy, nobody else".

B. Regarding the list of the famous Hungarians, he could not tell anything about any of them. He finally said: "maybe my daddy would know something about them I don't."

IX. Subject was unable to name anything that was completely different from things in Hungary, though I believe the change must have been tremendous, I think he either was too lazy to think, or too indolent and bored, maybe all.

His answer to what are the things he likes most in America, was: "I like Sally's father best." After much probing he finally said: "because when I help him to gather leaves in the garden he gives me money". It seems to me that money must matter much to this youngster, as a reaction to the poverty experienced at home.

As things he disapproved of in the US he mentioned American food. He said: "I don't like it at all, and my mother always cooks real good Hungarian things."