

IX. Can you tell me what strikes you as being completely different here in the U.S. from Hungary?

"First of all, the food. It is so wonderful to see so much and such different foods. We never had anything like this at home."

When asked what are the things she likes most about the U.S., her answer was typical of a rather vain little girl, because she said "Oh, I love best the beautiful dresses I can get here."

Now tell me what are the things you don't like here in the U.S.

"I really do not like the fact that the kids are so rude here, especially at school. They are undisciplined, rude, and always pushing us around."

"You know, I really think that the Negroe kids are far better than those nasty Puerto Rican ones. They are the worst."

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"You know, Miss, even ~~xx~~ I have it much better here, I would still prefer to be at home in Hungary, because I do not know how to speak the language here well yet."

THE END

Who was Mindszenty?

"He was a priest."

And what about Imre Nagy?

~~That~~ "He was a Hungarian Prime Minister who now has been imprisoned."

VIII. SPECIAL SECTION

A. Can you tell me who you think are the three greatest people in the world?

"Well, I think first of all the greatest man in the world is the king, then comes the count, and then the very rich people." I tried to explain to the little girl that this is not quite what we mean, but she insists that the greatest people in the world are as she said before, and she insisted that the king is the greatest man in the world.

She could not give any three living great people in the world.

Neither did she have any idea who is the greatest living Hungarian.

B. In reference to the names of various Hungarians, the child's answers were as follows:

"St. Stephen was a holy man."

"King Mathias was one of the Hungarian kings."

She did not hear about Francis Rakoczi.

Of Petofi she said "This man he died. I believe he is the one who wrote that famous poem, "Rise Hungarians" but I'm not quite sure."

In reference to Kossuth the child said "Isn't that song written about him?" (The child was right because there is a famous old patriotic song written about Kossuth.)

What about Szechenyi?

"This man I have seen in a film."

Deak she thought to be a Minister of Hungary, a state Minister.

Of Maria Teresia she held that this was a saint. (The child evidently mixed it up with St. Therese of Lisieux.)

EM The little girl didn't know a thing about Bethlen, about Tancsics or about Dozsa.

Her most striking definition referred to Horthy, whom she believed to be a film actor. (I had a good laugh here, and could hardly keep a poker face when she said this.)

parents, and if a child is always fighting."

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

"That it shouldn't tell on others, that it shouldn't go out on the streets but stay at home and study, and third, that it should be good and nice with the sisters and brothers."

What are the three worst things one can say about someone?

"First, that he has a dirty tongue, then, that she kills someone, like they do very often here I have heard, and that a child is disobedient."

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

"I would like to become a dancer." This the little girl said quickly, without hesitating. Then she continued, "I also would like to sing, because I can do both very well. Whenever the radio is playing music I immediately start dancing and make up my own dances."

"Do you know, I have already learned how to dance the English way, because here you know they dance quite different things than back at home."

"Sometimes daddy too teaches me to dance, but mostly I invent my own dances. I have also taken part in a pantomime at school here."

(While telling me all this the little girl illustrated how she made up her own dances. She really does move beautifully and uses her arms and hands very expressively.)

"You know, my parents promised me that as soon as they can afford it, they are going to enroll me at a ballet school."

(The answers to the following questions were rather sophisticated for such a young child. She must have had some very bad experience in this field.)

Tell me now, what is a good father like?

"A good father does not quarrel with his wife. He understands his kids, he doesn't drink and he doesn't go out with other ladies."

What is an ideal teacher like?

"An ideal teacher must know how to teach well and should never beat the children."

What does a good mother do?

"A good mother stays at home and does not go out with other gentlemen. She also should never beat the children if they don't deserve it. Further, a good mother should never quarrel with the father."

Have you any idea what the three worst things are that a child can do?

"The three worse things a child could do are: if a child says nasty things, if the child doesn't obey its

VI. THE HUNGARIAN REVOLUTION

Now I am going to ask you a bit about the revolution.

A. Can you tell me why the Hungarians started the revolution?

"Yes, because the Russians came and occupied Hungary. This is what I heard."

B. What impressed you most during the revolution?

"I was terribly scared when the big shooting started, and when they closed the big front entrance door. We had to go down to the cellar -- the whole family, daddy, mommy and all the kids. Then I remember we were very scared because daddy went to the plant where he worked to strike. Also, I heard that the Russians shot many kids, so of course I was very much afraid."

V. REWARDS AND PUNISHMENTS

A. Have you been rewarded at school for good work, and if so, how?

"Yes. We received what they call a report card. We did not get any prizes. I got top marks, the ~~five~~ fives, very often, and if we had enough fives then we got a very good report."

B. Were you ever punished at school?

"Yes. We had to stand, for instance, for a while. Then, if we were very naughty, we even got a slap on our behinds. Then we had the bad report card which were sent to the parents to be signed. Also, sometimes we ~~were~~ were kept after class an hour or so, depending on how naughty we were."

C. Were you ever punished by your parents?

"Yes. If I was naughty I had to kneel in the corner, or sometimes if I was very naughty then I was beaten up, but not very much. I usually got big slaps on my fanny. You know, daddy was always less strict with us than mommy."

IV. FAMILY BACKGROUND

Tell me something about your own family. What did your father do at home?

"Daddy was an automobile driver and worked for a transportation company, trucking, sanding and building material, mostly to the provinces. Poor daddy, he worked very much, and mommy also had to work. She worked in the offices of the lamp factory."

"We lived in the 8th district of Budapest where we had one room and a kitchen, then a small larder and there was a lavatory outside in the corridor. Mommy and daddy and my sister and my brother all slept in a huge, big, big bed. Myself and another girl -- she was a relative of ours -- we slept in the kitchen but each of us had her own bed. You see, this girl was nineteen years old, was a relative of ours and also helped mother in the household, and she also looked after us sometimes."

Who did the housework? Did you help?

"Mother and the girl both did the housework alternatively, and when I came home from school of course I always helped them to dust, to wash the dishes and altogether to tidy up the apartment."

"I never attended day school because as I told you already this girl usually was at home when we returned from school and could help to look after us."

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

"Oh yes, I did. But if it so happened that daddy or mommy said something other than what I heard at school, I always believed my parents."

C. When asked whether she ever talked about what happened at home, the little girl said no, but could not give any reason why. She added, "But I never talked about politics at school."

D. What did you do after school hours?

"I went home first and then I did my homework. I wrote and read what I had to, and studied. Then, when I finished with this, I took my sister and brother out to the Square to play with them."

Did you ever go to the movies?

"Yes. I went sometimes with mother, or even sometimes alone. The movie was quite near the place where I lived. I loved those movies which made you laugh a great deal, those comic plays."

Did you do any sports?

"Ye. Sometimes in the summer we went with mother to the swimming pool, but I could not swim yet."

Did you play with other kids, and if so, what?

"We mostly played with dolls and we played ball and we also skipped rope. Besides, we very often read fairy tales together."

Did you participate in any Pioneer Movement?

"You know, Miss, there are the Pioneers and there are the so-called Pals. The Pioneers have a red necktie and the Pals have a blue. But I was not a member of the Pals either."

Why were they ~~fr~~ your friends, and what sort of kids were they?

"Well, we just made friends because they liked me, and I liked them. I couldn't tell you what kind of kids they were, because I didn't know what their fathers were. We always played together with dolls, we skipped rope, played ball, etc."

Whom did you not like at school? Were there any classmates you didn't like?

"Yes, there was one. This girl always out on airs and didn't want to play with anybody, so we thoroughly disliked her."

Did you have any Communists among your classmates?

"No, there weren't any Communists."

Tell me now, can you tell me who is a Communist?

"Communists are those people who do not believe in our God."

Respondent could not tell whether they had any children at school who were looked up to by the others.

When I put the question to the little girl regarding with which child she would rather make friends, the kid of a lawyer who is now a common laborer, or with the daughter of a man who was a common laborer but is now the manager of a factory, she answered after some hard thinking:

"I certainly would not make friends with a girl whose father is a Communist."

Here I pointed out that neither parent is a Communist. The little girl said then:

"Then I would prefer the daughter of the man who was a common laborer." (The attitude of the little girl reflects on her own class background. She comes from a very humble family.)

Did you have any religious instruction at school?

"No, there was no religious instruction at all at school, and I didn't attend any special religious classes either. But we always went to school, and my mommy and daddy always told me about God."

III. THE SCHOOL SITUATION

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

"We lived in the 8th district in Budapest and I attended the public grade school of the same district."

"What subjects did you have?"

"We had arithmetic, writing, grammar, reading, singing, gym, and also a class that was called conversation."

What did you read, for instance?"

"Well, we read stories, fairy tales."

What did you talk about in your conversation class?"

"In these classes we talked about everything that was happening around us in the world."

Which subject was your favorite subject?"

"Reading, because although I knew how to write, I didn't like writing very much. Reading I loved tremendously."

What can you tell me about your teachers?"

"We had only one teacher. She was a woman teacher and I liked her very much. She was always very nice to me. She had a sweet little boy and I very often went to visit them at their home."

Did the teachers treat all children equally?"

"There was only one girl who was extremely naughty, and with this one the teacher was very strict. Otherwise she treated all children equally. There were only girls in our class, no boys."

Were there any Communist teachers at your school?"

"No, I didn't hear of this."

Tell me something now about your classmates. Who were your very best friends?"

"I had three very good friends."