

"What is a good mother like?"

"She is like the one I have."

I could not get any answer from the kid regarding what are the three worst things a child can do, what the three most important things a kid should be taught, or what are the three worst things she could say about someone. She just shrugged her shoulders and said: "I don't know."

VIII.

A. The Special Section too was a failure, as she was unable to name any great people, great living people or greatest living Hungarian.

B. As to selected Hungarians when asked who was St. Stephen she said: "he is Jesus" (she probably understood Szent Isten instead of Szent Istvan, and this indeed would mean 'holy God')

There was no response to other famous Hungarians.

IX.

When asked what strikes her as being completely different here in the US from Hungary her answer was: "Here I have a doll and I have dresses. At home I never had a doll and never had a new dress."

She also said that the things she likes most here in US are her dolls.

And the things she dislikes or disapproves of here in the US: "the bad kids at school."

THE END OF THE INTERVIEW

B. "Were you punished at school?"

"Yes, I was put into the corner."

C. "Were you punished by your parents?"

"Whenever I was naughty Dad or Mom beat me up, but rather Mother."

VI.

A. Can you tell me why the Hungarians started the Revolution?"

"Because the communists and the Russians were nasty with the Hungarian people. You know my dad always spat and kicked Rakosi's picture, he hated him so."

B. The child could not tell me what impressed her most during the revolution, (by the way they lived in a small provincial town where not very much fighting etc, happened) she kept on repeating "we left very soon, after the revolution broke out."

VII.

She had very primitive ideas as to what she would like to become when she grows up, she said: "when I am grown up I would like to work, to cook and to wash up, "when asked why, she answered, "because I like it."

"What is a good father like?"

"A good father is like mine, when mother beats me, he beats up mother."

"What is an ideal teacher like?" (here I again had to explain her what 'ideal' means)

"Like the one I had and I liked, I have known only one teacher."

D.

"What did you do after school?"

"I did my home work and then I looked after my small brother, but when mother came home I went to play with my friend. We played ball and also with dolls; she had many toys she received for Christmas from the little Jesus (in Hungary it is not Santa Claus who brings the presents to the kids but the Infant Jesus)

The child did not take part in any pioneer~~er's~~ movements in fact she didn't even know about it.

IV.

When probed for her family background etc, she said: "Dad worked in a factory, he was a stoker, mother worked at the same factory, she was in the part where they made dresses and shirts (mother who was present, told me she was in the textile mill, operating looms)

Regarding their living conditions I had to resort to the mother again. They lived in one of the Municipal Housing Projects, had a 2 room apartment, no bath, the child slept with her mother and father.

"Who did the housework?"

"Dad and Mom, whoever was at home but when I finished playing, I too helped Mom to wash up, you know we washed up in a little bowl."

"Who took care of you after school?"

"Nobody, we took care of each other."

V.

REWARDS AND PUNISHMENTS

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

"We received a red 5 that was all, this was the best mark you could get."

the class-supervisor."

Subject was unable to tell whether or not there were any communist teachers at her school.

Classmates:

Who were your friends and why?"

"There was the one who sat next to me, she was my best friend. We always played together, hide and seek, horsey-horsey and such things."

"Were there any girls you did not like?"

"There was one who was bald. This one I did not like because she was so ugly."

When I asked her whether they had any communists among their classmates, she said: "Sure there was one, a very fat boy, he must have been a communist or else he could not have been so fat" (It seems that to her mind being fat meant being well-fed, ergo being a communist)

I have not probed the girl for children who were "looked up to" at school, neither did I probe her regarding the choice of friend in reference to social background, because she so very evidently was incompetent to answer these questions.

When asked about religious instruction at school, the child first asked "what is religious instruction?" and when I explained it to her in plain words, she said: "Now I know what you mean, yes there was a priest who taught us how to say the Lord's prayer and also how many persons there are in one God."

B. & C.

Regarding telling parents what happened at school and vice-versa the child said: "I told at home what happened at school, but did not tell at school what happened at home, because nobody asked me and I was not going to speak up." She also had no idea whether she was told or not by parents not to talk at school about family affairs.