

CHILD INTERVIEW

CH-22-P
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Date: Sept. 26, 1957
Interviewer:
Mrs. Varga

I.

CHARACTER DESCRIPTION

This little girl comes from true "proletarian" family and due to inadequate income of parents (though both were working) and lack of parental care, remained physically and mentally retarded. I might even say she is a moron, she slurs the words, sometimes I could hardly understand what she was mubling, and had to repeat most of the questions and had to explain them too. Has no manners whatsoever, has a very bad appearance, sloppy, dirty and unkeapt.

Her mother brought her along, together with her other three small kids, (another, 13 years old boy was left at home) and the whole family looked downat the heels dirty and sloppy. The fault evidently lies with the parents who seem to be just this sort of people, because other kids I had interviewed and who had the same background, were neat, clean smart and bright, and you could see that their parents took pride in improving their manners and appearance.

Nevertheless, by all means, we see from this interview that working and social welfare-condition of the working class in Hungary, are far from being what the Hungarian communists are pretending to be. Further, that the quality of a family has much to do with the upbringing of children. (by quality I do not mean classwise but spiritual and moral.)

II.

PERSONAL INVENTORY

1. Age 7
2. Sex: female
3. Religion: R.C. (had to ask mother, she did not know)

4. Born at Paps, provincial town in the Transdanubian district of Hungary) and lived all her life there.

5. Attended 1st grade of elementary school, started 2nd grade, but was put back in the first grade here in the States (no wonder)

6. Respondent's parents are here with her, and so are also two of her small sisters plus one elder and one younger brother.
Grandparents are all deceased.

7. Respondent attends the first grade at the R.C. parochial school in the Bronx, Alex Ave. They live in the Bronx, where they have a 6 room apartment.

III.

THE SCHOOL SITUATION

A. Can you tell me something about your school in Hungary, which were the subjects you took?

(please note that subjects answers were by far not so coherent and continuous as I write them down, every question needed a great deal of probing and explanation as mentioned in character description)

"Well, we learned to count to 6, we did not learn to read yet, but we learned to write a few letters."

"I loved best to write figures, I did not know how to read."

"What about your teachers? Who were they?"

"We had one woman teacher she taught us everything. I liked her but I was always put in the corner, because I did not do my homework, and because I always talked to my friend who sat next to me. But sometimes I got a 5 too,"- she boasted.

"Did your teacher treat all kids equally?"

"There was one girl she was always nice with, because she was a good girl and wrote beautifully. This one was also