

IX. Finally, tell me what strikes you as being completely different from Hungary in the U.S.A?

"First of all, that in Hungary there is Communism and the money has no value whatsoever. Here you don't have all this. Then, here in America people are allowed to talk freely and don't have to be afraid of doing so. People live well and the money here has a terrific purchase value."

What are the things you like most about the U.S.?

"Oh, I love those big, big houses. At home I never saw such big houses."

Is there anything you disapprove of here in the U.S.?

"Yes, I think that the children here are very naughty. They don't study enough and they are always fighting and quarreling."

THE END

X What do you know about Rakoczi?

"He was the son of Francis Rakoczi the First, and he was the leader of the Kuruc people and fought against the German Labans."

What do you know about Petofi?

"Well, I told you already what I knew about him. ~~xxxxxx~~ He was a very famous Hungarian poet who died very young."

What do you know about Kossuth?

"I have heard a great deal about him. He was a very great leader. Wasn't he a poet also?"

Who was Szechenyi?

"He was an author."

Who was Deak?

"He was a kind of leader like the President here in the United States."

The boy however had not heard about Maria Teresa, about Gabor Bethlen, and about Tancos he heard that he was a friend of Petofi and also a poet.

About Dozza he said "He fought for the rights of the Hungarian people but that was a very long time ago."

When asked what he knew about Horthy, the answer was: "He was the president of the Hungarian nation before 1945."

Who was Mindszenty?

"He was the Cardinal of Hungary and he always preached against the Communists, therefore they hated him because the Communists don't like anybody don't like anybody to be religious. Therefore they put Cardinal Mindszenty into prison."

When asked about Imre Nagy the young boy said, "Well, I told you already that I think him to be the greatest living Hungarian."

VIII. SPECIAL SECTION

A. When asked to mention the three greatest people in the world, the little boy said "Please let me think a little bit, because this is something I have to make up my mind about first."

After a couple of minutes he said "Columbus was one of the most famous people because he discovered America. Then comes Petofi, because he was the most famous Hungarian poet, and in spite of having died very young he wrote ~~it~~ so many very famous poems. He was only 24 years old when he died. You know that. And the third most famous man is Stalin, but not because of his goodness, but because he was so bad."

When I asked him to mention three living great people, he said "Can these be politicians?" and I assured him yes.

So the boy said "Here in America the most famous man of course is President Eisenhower, and then Vice-President Nixon. Among the others, I believe Krushchev is pretty famous for being a Russian Communist big shot."

Who do you think is the greatest living Hungarian?

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

The little boy had his answer ready -- Imre Nagy, and he also gave his answer ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ immediately because "he has stated the will of the Hungarian nation. He wanted Hungary to be neutral and he was very much loved by the Hungarian people."

"I also think there is another very famous Hungarian man, and this is Malster. He was the one who was the leader of the Hungarian Freedom Fighters. Unfortunately, as I heard, he was taken prisoner by the Russians."

B. I am going to give you now a few names of famous Hungarians. Tell me a little about each of them.

Who was St. Stephen?

"He was a king of Hungary."

What do you know about King Mathias?

"He too was a Hungarian king who liked his people very much. He occupied Vienna, took it from the Germans, and the Hungarian people liked him very much for being always a very just king."

VII. Could you tell me what you would like to be when you grow up?

"I think I would like to become a doctor, because I like to help people and, last but not least, doctors are pretty well paid here as I've heard."

I wonder whether you can tell me what a good father is like?

"A good father must be very strict with his boy, but if his boy is a decent child, the father must also hold him in esteem. But if he is bad then he should be strict."

What is an ideal teacher like?

"An ideal teacher I believe must be very fair but very strict."

What is a good mother like?

"A good mother must love her children, must take good care of the family, but she too must be strict."

You have hold me right now that you want a good father, a good teacher, a good mother, all three of them, to be strict. Now tell me why you are of this opinion.

"I know, Miss, because if you are strict with a child when he is young, then later on when he is grown up he won't become a hoodlum and he will become a decent person. Also, then he will always respect his parents. Furthermore, if you are strict with a kid and make him learn what he has to learn, then when he is grown up he can succeed much better in life if he has studied properly."

What are the three worst things a did can do?

"First of all, if he is always fighting, then if he carries those switch-blade knives the way the kids here do, and then if he doesn't behave decently in the street."

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

"First of all, that a kid must respect his parents and his teachers. Then second, he must be obedient and third he must learn how to behave properly."

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

"These three things are that a person is selfish, that he is envious of others, and thirdly that he is lazy."

I too could go out and fight. I found weapons in the street, you know, a quite serviceable tommy gun, and also I received ammunition from the Freedom Fighters. Then once I managed to fill a Molotov cocktail. Do you know what these are? Of course you do, don't you? Then I was lucky to find a tank. The Russian was still in it, so I threw the bottle against the tank and when the Russian climbed out I shot him."

Weren't you afraid of shooting and of the consequences?

"No, I was not afraid. You know Miss, if you have a weapon in your hands, then you are never afraid. One thing I can tell you. I am sorry that I was unable to get my hands on an AVH man, because I wouldn't have honored him by shooting him, but I would have liked to slit up his stomach with a big knife. Yes, M'am, this is the Gospel truth."

Did you tell your parents what you were doing out in the streets?

"Certainly not Miss. Do you think they would have let me go out again if I told them that I was taking part in the fighting?"

Why really did you take part in the revolution?

"Because I was so terribly mad, (and here the boy gritted his teeth and clenched his fists), "I hated them, I hated them, the Communists and the Russians, and mostly I hated them for having killed that pal of mine."

VI. THE HUNGARIAN REVOLUTION

A. Can you tell me why in Hungary the revolution really has started?

"I'll tell you why. There was a dirty, lousy skunk called Gero. This made gave a speech in which he said the Hungarians are gangsters and hooligans, and then of course the Hungarians didn't want to swallow this and tolerate such language."

Who told you this?

"Nobody told me, but after all, I am a Hungarian too, and I ~~disapprove~~ disapprove of being talked to in such a way. Nobody can say anything nasty about the Hungarian nation."

B. What impressed you most during the revolution?

"I got terribly mad when I saw how in the house next door to us the AVH had donned white Red Cross uniforms and hid their tommy guns under them, pretending they were going to help the ~~wound~~ wounded, and all of a sudden they started shooting on the people. I also saw how a young boy in the same house where we lived looked out from the window, and then from another house an AVH sniper shot him and he was killed right in front of me."

C. Did you take part in the revolution?

"Yes I did, but not to such an extent as my brother, who was everywhere -- in front of the Parliament, and at the Radio. He told me about many things he witnessed. My father and mother of course stayed at home, and I was supposed to stay with them. But whenever I could I sneaked away. I must tell you that the AVH people who were hanged by the Freedom Fighters merited their fate. I saw one of those gangsters hung up, head down, and 3000 forints were pinned behind his legs. This was his salary. You know, Miss, they ~~gr~~ received terrific salaries while other people had to go hungry."

"There was also something else. You know the Hungarian Communist radio was lying all the time, and this enraged us. The Hungarians fought happily and gladly for their freedom and they were not gangsters."

Tell me something now about your own experiences during the revolution.

"You see, it was like this. Whenever I could, I sneaked away and ran down into the street only so that

V. REWARDS AND PUNISHMENTS

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

"At the end of the school year we usually received books as a reward. I always had top marks and thus often received books. If you had only ~~five~~ fives as marks, then you were rewarded with the book in public at the auditorium of the school, and all parents and other kids attended. But if you had a 1 or 2 fours among your marks, then the premium was distributed in class only. The books were dedicated to so and so for his good studies."

B. Were you ever punished at school?

"Of course. When we were very naughty then we had to stand up, for instance, in class, or stand with raised arms for 15 minutes, etc. Also, we were kept after class for an hour or so and not allowed to go home if we were naughty. Only the rude teacher was really rude with us, as I mentioned, and he beat us up sometimes, even with his fists, and he pulled our hair."

C. Were you ever punished by your parents?

"Certainly. If I was naughty, then I was punished. I had to stand in the corner, for instance, or kneel in the corner. Sometimes, also, my mother gave me a slap in the face, and so did my father. Why? Well, for instance, I came home later than I promised, or I was told to. Then once I broke a window with my football or for instance, if I was disrespectful to my parents and talked back. I must admit that I was a pretty naughty boy and very lively. But you see my parents were very fair. First they always warned me if I didn't behave I would be punished. So, if I was naughty, I was punished indeed, and that was the end of it."

IV. Regarding his family background, the kid gave the following information:

"Father was a tailor. He had his own shop. He was what we called Maszek. I expect you know what that is. And for this very reason we were oppressed by the regime. Father had one assistant, and of course I helped him a great deal. But you know he had to be very cautious, and whenever some stranger came to our apartment, this man hid away, because had the authorities known that father was keeping an assistant, he would have had to pay through his nose in taxes.

"We lived in the 5th district near the Nador St. We had three rooms, a kitchen and also a working room for my father. The apartment was shared by the four of us, father, mother and my eldest brother and myself. I shared a room with my brother and had my own bed which was ~~skin~~ also handed down from my brother. This was a wonderfully made, real old-fashioned bed. You can't get such pieces of furniture anymore. You know that my mother was ~~pre-~~ <sup>EVEN OFFERED</sup> 1500 forints for this old bed, but of course we didn't sell it because we didn't have the money to buy myself a new ~~one~~.

Who did the housework?

"It was mother, but I helped her. Then we also had an old lady who came. She wasn't a Communist either. We paid her now and then for her work because the old woman was of course very poor and she needed that little money.

"Since both of my parents stayed at home and worked at home of course they took care of me after school."



What about sports?

"I knew how to swim, and in the summer I used to go and swim in the Danube whenever I could manage."

Did you belong to the Pioneers?

"Yes, I did. We did all kinds of exercises, we took part in all sorts of marches and excursions. As I mentioned already to you, we liked the man who was our instructor at the Pioneers. He was strict but fair."

"She also used to tell me ~~thuk~~how much food they used to have in Hungary during those times, or oranges, bananas and such things that I have never seen in my life. Of course, I only believed my parents and my family. You know, the trouble was that whenever some delicatessen foods arrived in Hungary, or some fruit, oranges, bananas, etc., the Jews who had so much more money than we bought it up. You see, the trouble with them was, they really didn't do any harm to us, but we didn't like them for such things."

C. What sort of things did you talk about at school with your classmates?

"Well, we mostly talked about soccer. Everybody was mad about soccer and we only played soccer at every interval and talked about it. As I told you already, since my parents often said things that really were quite dangerous, and since they also had warned me not to talk at school about certain things, I kept my mouth shut. I knew I would have gotten them into trouble. We had enough when our father was taken as a soldier despite his age."

D. What did you do after school hours?

"First of all, I went home and then I sat down to do my homework. I learned what I had to learn by heart, I wrote my lessons and read. After that, I usually had a late lunch, then I helped my mother in the household. I always liked to help my father too. I helped him with his tailor work. I helped mother by running errands for her. Then I cleaned the rooms, peeled the potatoes, and if there was some more time left, then only I went out to play with my friends. We also played hide and seek and we chased each other around the Square. But we also liked to kid the girls very much. We chased them around and, for instance, we also ruined their sand castles they were building on the playground."

Did you read now and then?

"Oh yes, I read a great deal. I read Robinson Crusoe and I read The Stars of Eger by Gardonyi. (This is a very famous historical novel by a very famous Hungarian author, a very serious and interesting book.) I also read cowboy books. All the books I took out from the Circulating library.

"We also went to the movies sometimes, but very seldom. You see, my parents were always very busy."

kids. These, then, very often attacked us, and we really fought battles."

Were there any kids in your class who were looked up to?

"They were. There was one especially who was an extremely good scholar. We liked him very much and everybody held him in high esteem. There were a couple of boys who were very bad students. These I helped and I taught them to read especially, and therefore these kids liked me very much also."

Now, listen sonny, I'm going to put a very tricky question to you. Think hard and try to give me an answer. Let us say that in your class there are two children of your age. One is the son of a man who was once a lawyer but is now a common laborer; the other is the son of a man who was a common laborer ten years ago but now he is the manager of a factory. Which of them would you rather have as a friend?

"The son of the former lawyer and for the very reason that during the Communist regime he was an oppressed man."

I mentioned here to him that neither of the parents is a Communist. He then answered "Even then I would stick to the boy of the lawyer, because before the war and Communism this man probably as a lawyer has served Hungarian justice, and now because the Communists do not allow him to work as a lawyer and to serve Hungarian justice, he is oppressed."

Did you have religious instruction at school?

"No, we did not. But please, Miss, really I was religious. My mother taught me and I went to church every Sunday with my family. I also had a very good friend who assisted at Mass every day, but he had to suffer for this very much."

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

"Yes, I did. But whenever I told at home something I heard at school my parents always said "This is not worth a damn. Of course, I never repeated this at school. On the whole, I can say I was lucky. I never slipped up and I never put my foot in it because I was pretty careful not to talk about things I heard at home. Also, I never told anybody at school how my grandmother used to tell me how much better the situation and life was before the war and before Communism."

taught by a woman teacher. She taught us mathematics, reading and writing. Gym was ~~taught~~ taught by a male teacher who was extremely strict with us. He yelled his head off and sometimes he even pulled our hair. The singing lessons were given by another woman teacher. I liked my teacher, the one who taught the regular subjects, because she wasn't too strict with us."

Did they treat all children equally?

"No. They were always much nicer with the Communist kids, and they even praised them when they didn't know their lessons very well. Of course, the teachers did not dare to be too strict with those kids.

"The headmaster, on the other hand, was very strict."

Did you have any Communist teachers at your school?

"Yes, we had. The one who was the leader of the Pioneer Movement was a Communist. But you know, Miss, it is something funny. This man always praised the Soviet and I believe therefore that he was a Communist. But nevertheless we liked him because that man had something in him. He was strict with us and kept a very strict discipline, and he knew how to go about this. He treated us very fairly, however, and he never tried to ram Communism down our throats, so to speak. I don't think he was a Party member."

"However, everybody knew about the headmaster that he was a real Communist. He too was always singing the praises of the Soviet army. He was around 34 years old."

I would like to know something now about your classmates and your friends. Who were they?

"I had several friends at school, and maybe you will be amazed to hear that I had a friend who was a Communist. He never went to school and he always praised the Soviets. We often quarreled on account of this, but then we made it up because he was an extremely good football player. I was the captain of the football team at class. The father of this kid was a shoemaker.

"Then I had another friend whose father was an architect and this boy too I quite liked. On the whole I was friends with the whole class.

"As a rule we played soccer, then we always fought battles with the Communist boys in the school. You see, we had "A" and "B" classes in every grade because there were so many kids and the "B" was chock full of Communist

### III. THE SCHOOL SITUATION

A. Tell me something about your school back in Hungary.  
What subjects did you have?

"We had arithmetic, then what they called discussions of conversation. Then we had Hungarian grammar, reading and writing. Further, drawing, singing and gym.

"The conversation lessons or classes were a kind of simplified geography, I could say. We talked about things that were happening in the world and also we were taught many times how the heroic Russian army liberated the Hungarian people. There was also the story of a Russian soldier we read in our reader. This was a true story. I was told how this Russian soldier helped a Hungarian agricultural machinery supervisor, and he in turn wrote a letter to that Russian soldier.

"In our reading classes again we had to read mostly about the Soviet Union and very little about Hungary. However, we read about Francis Rakoczi. Then, in our singing classes we again sang Communist songs, no Hungarian folk songs at all, and also sometimes we sang children's songs."

Which were your favorite subjects?

"I liked mathematics best, because this is something interesting, and at least in this subject there was nothing about Communism and they couldn't teach us in a slanted way. You see I hate the Communists. They were oppressing me, oppressing us. My father made his living as a tailor and made quite good money, but they wanted him to sign a peace loan which was much more than he could afford. So as a punishment, in spite of the fact that he was forty-five years old, he was called up as a soldier, and he had to live in a camp, sometimes under tents only. He got only two forints a day, which of course you can imagine was not enough. Thus mother had to go to work; she also did sewing. But you know, when the revolution broke out father deserted and came home. We heard several times that the former soldiers were called back to return to their units. Father didn't want to, and that's how and why we came away."

What about your teachers? Tell me something about them.

"We had several teachers. The main subjects were