

# Authorities Disagree on Publishing Delinquents' Names

(Editor's Note: In recent weeks, The Observer, through "Fact and Opinion," has printed confidential reports on the subject of publishing the names of juveniles who

encounter mischief. Judge James Lincoln has been thoughtful in his editorials to The Observer on the subject. The following Associated Press story is reprinted because it

gives a look at the same subject through a national eye-glass.)

NEW YORK—How do you prevent a juvenile delinquent who has committed an adult crime from becoming an habitual offender?

In the continuing debate over juvenile delinquency, experts

have come up with two diametrically opposed proposals. Some experts claim the only preventive is widespread newspaper publicity, including the name of the juvenile for all to read.

Others say the best method is to shield the young offender from the glare of publicity.

In Montana, District Court

Judge Lester H. Loble claims to have cut crime, carrying out a law he fathered in 1961, which provides for open court hearings for juveniles accused of felonies. This includes newspaper coverage, which names names.

Judge Loble says that juvenile felony cases are down 49 per cent compared with the three-year period before 1961.

He asserts, "The enemies of crime are fear of punishment and fear of publicity."

Most of the police chiefs and prosecuting attorneys interviewed around the country by The Observer and Press agree with Judge Loble's view that juvenile offender's names should be published. They claim such publication has a deterrent effect.

Probation and parole officers generally oppose publication of names. Juvenile Court Judges are split nearly 50-50.

Those who oppose publication of young lawbreakers' names do not agree on a reason as do those favoring publication.

Some should not be published because it would be too harsh a punishment. Others think publication should be withheld because it is exactly what the offenders want.

Juvenile Court Judge Frank Bretzelmach of Los Angeles says he knows of juvenile gangs who try to top each other for space in the press.

Donald E. MacFarlane, ref-

erence in Hennepin County (Minneapolis) Juvenile Court, says, "Many kids are looking for somebody to give them publicity. If we do not do it, they will do it themselves."

Others say the law is almost a license to commit crimes."

In Miami:

Police Chief Walter Headley says:

"Juvenile crime is growing by leaps and bounds. I'm tired of this attitude. I'm not 17, copper; you can't do anything to me."

Publicity would help. It

would have an effect on the public."

There is no question in my mind that serious crimes the name should be used.

"I don't buy the idea that

if you have a juvenile lawbreaker, and you publish his name, he will step out of trouble."

"My court is the busiest one in Wisconsin. And I have seen the effects of certain groups who tell the young offenders,

"I'll give you another chance, Johnny," and then he commits a second crime while awaiting trial on the first charge."

Authorities, even in the same

city, do not always agree. In Dallas, Tex., for example:

Dist. Atty. Henry Wade says

such offenders used juvenile law, publicized by a newspaper, to

get out of trouble.

"At the end of two years,"

Judge Bradford says, "I couldn't discern any appreciable deter-

rent insofar as delinquency ac-

tions were concerned."

"Also I never discovered a single individual where notably

a newspaper was a factor in a youth's repeating an offense."

I was unable to find that any

harm was done by publish-

ing their names."

"Publishing their names did

not make an iota of difference."

Dist. Atty. John J. Connolly said the whole purpose of juvenile courts is that children are im-

mature and prone to make mis-

takes and vulnerable to outside influences and that within

the walls of the courtroom, the

latter life should be protected."

William Cribbens, youth

services consultant with the

Chicago police, agrees. "Too

many people who are fam-

iliar with kids turn into good

solid citizens. It's been too

long, I think, that people who

would have been irreparably

hurt if their names had been

given out."

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Judge-elect Don

Stone, who takes office in Dade

County (Miami) in January, says:

"Published means that the

juvenile must be shown by

anyone who is a parent or

offender whose name is published from the glares of publicity.

"If names are used, the

families might supervise chil-

dren more."

"I think publishing the names

would have a good effect."

"It might, however, have a

better effect in small towns,

where everyone in town could

read the names."

Miss Marion Brennan, deputy

probation officer in New York

Juvenile Court, says, "Our pur-

pose is to make parents and

children aware of a

size where social pressure

would be minimal. Wayne Coun-

ty Prosecutor Samuel Olsen

advocates adding monetary

pressure. "In the case of savage

unprovoked attacks on citizens,

extreme measures are justified

even to the case, especially to

parents of these young toughs."

Olsen said he thinks, further,

the law should be amended to

make parents liable for damages

where assault by a juvenile is

intentional."

There is disagreement over a

policy of publicity when the

juvenile is no stranger to delin-

quency.

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Juvenile Court, says, "Our pur-

pose is to make parents and

children have to be handled differ-

ently from adults."

When the juvenile is a repeat

offender, she says, "The court

will still have the jurisdiction over

the offender as a child. I've

been working with the Juvenile

Court for 25 years and I agree

with the policy of withholding

names."



UNUSUAL SWEARING-IN took place in the Navy Recruiting Office, 1519 Farmington Road, Livonia, recently when LL. W. F. Makowski, from the Detroit Office, administered the oath to his son Frank Makowski, 11116 Middlebelt Road. Frank, a senior at Franklin High, recently turned 17 and decided to start his Navy career even before he is graduated.

Judge Albert N. Bradford of St. Louis, Mo., released the names of 14 in all traffic, liquor and delinquency felony cases. He released the names under 14 if it was a second offense.

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Department of Social Work at New York University says, "The youngest offenders need help. When he is defined as a delinquent by the press, he is more likely to act that way."

Bernard Pyle of the Georgia

Pardon and Parole Board says,

"When children are protected

by not publishing names, they are not afraid to commit

another offense."

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