

Narcotics, Crime Only Part Of New York's Problems

By Margie Engelkemier
NU School of Journalism

Crime is on a ten per cent rise in New York City, according to New York State Supreme Court Justice Henry J. Latham who spoke on "American Cities Aflame" at the second half of the World News and Views series last Thursday.

Judge Latham is serving his ninth year as a New York State Supreme Court Justice. He was a member of the U.S. Congress for 14 years.

In New York eight million people live in an area ten times larger than Lincoln. There are 32,000 policemen and 15,000 firemen. There are 250 fires each day with 100 false alarms, Justice Latham continued.

Add to this 650,000 people on relief, one-half of all the narcotics addicts in the U.S., 4,000 high school girls pregnant each year out of wedlock and a budget of \$5 billion and there will be problems, he said.

A mayor of New York City once called his city "fun city" and now everyone uses this term yet this "fun city" has a major problem each day," Latham told the audience.

Eight Problems

He emphasized eight major problems in New York City: narcotics, crime, welfare, race, pollution, labor, the budget and traffic.

Narcotics users previously came from low income areas but now users include people from the upper class, he said. Usually the addiction starts at a party as a harmless way to have some fun but he said that in two weeks one can develop a dependency on marijuana.

Marijuana doesn't satisfy for long so a stronger narcotic such as heroin is used. Judge Latham said there are three possible reasons why one starts the use of heroin. They are emotional instability, increasing intolerance and physical dependency.

"There is a growing use of narcotics in colleges," he stated, "and this is a major source of revenue for organized crime."

A large city has problems due to the irresponsible addict contributing to crime, according to Latham.

"In New York City our daily crime consists of two murders, five rapes, 25 robberies, 139 cases of grand larceny and 89 stolen cars," Latham stated.

Welfare Projects

The welfare projects are

Secretary Earns Standard Award

Mrs. Nelaine V. Scofield, secretary of the men's physical education department at the University of Nebraska, has received a professional standards certificate from the National Association of Educational Secretaries, an affiliate of the National Education Association.

The recognition, given for meeting standards set by the association, is the second achievement Mrs. Scofield has accomplished this summer. In June, after 10 years of study, she received her bachelor of science degree in business administration from the University.

Instructor Attends Teachers Workshop

Michael S. Haro, health education instructor at the University of Nebraska, is enrolled in the Professional Education of Teachers Workshop being held at Ball State University in Muncie, Ind.



Henry J. Latham

supposed to be a temporary relief for the needy but instead unemployment has increased. About \$2 billion is spent either directly or indirectly each year on welfare, he continued.

"When I left New York City the case load workers were on strike, so how do you solve welfare problems?"

Twenty-five per cent of the city's population is Negro and Puerto Rican. In 1964, 43 percent of the Negro children born were out of wedlock, according to Judge Latham.

The ghetto area hasn't helped the race situation. The Negroes that move from the South into these ghettos and make the problem worse as they barricade themselves from society, help, and hope, according to Judge Latham.

"Negroes who have moved from the ghettos are better citizens and show more re-

sponsibility to their families," he said.

Pollution

Another problem of cities is pollution, Latham stated. "New York City has more sulfur dioxide than any other city. Every day each person inhales the equivalent of two packages of cigarettes."

Labor is also a problem because the city is helpless to its demands to prevent possible results as shown by statistics.

Latham added that since WW II local taxes have increased two times as fast as the income tax in New York City.

However, there are advantages in New York City, he added. "There are restaurants, nice beaches, fine art museums, the theatre, the center of music and the center of world finance."

"Even though there are problems," Latham concluded, "to a native, home is the greatest city in the world."

Schmehl Awarded Honorary Degree

The University of Nebraska's new director of research services, Dr. Francis L. Schmehl, has been awarded an honorary degree by Loyola of Chicago for his contribution to medicine through competent administration of federal grants for construction of health-related research facilities.

Appointed July 1 to head research services in the Graduate College, Dr. Schmehl will be in charge of seeking maximum support from federal and private sources for research projects of the University and its staff.

Prior to coming to Nebraska, he was chief of the Division of Research Facilities and Resources of the National Institute of Health. He holds degrees from Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., and honorary degrees from the University of Michigan and Northeastern University of Boston.

Dr. Schmehl started his career with the National Institute of Health. He was executive officer and did cancer research for the Children's Cancer Research Foundation in Boston from Sept., 1953, to June, 1955.

From 1955 to 1956, Dr. Schmehl conducted cancer chemotherapy research for

the National Cancer Institute at Bethesda, Maryland.

In June, he was given an award for "Superior sustained performance in organization and operation of the new Health Research Facilities program."

Dr. Schmehl is a member of the American Chemical Society and was assistant editor of the Journal of Organic Chemistry from 1948 to 1956.

Levine To Study Mental Health

Dr. David Levine, professor of psychology at the University of Nebraska, has been awarded a senior stipend by the Public Health Service to study operation of community mental health clinics in England.

Dr. Levine will spend a year at the Graylingwell Hospital in Chichester, England, and other psychological treatment centers in northern Europe.

"Since the U.S. is moving away from the use of big mental hospitals and toward community mental health centers, I hope to find out how successful these centers have been in England, where they have been in use since the end of WW II," Levine said.

Dr. Levine will leave Lincoln in mid-August.

Welfare Chiseling Not a Problem With Aid to Children Program

By Vicki Winslow

The following was written for a NU School of Journalism depth reporting class.

Welfare chiseling does not seem to be a problem in Lancaster County, if the Aid to Families of Dependent Children program is representative.

Despite letters-to-the-editor claiming abuse of funds, there is very little to substantiate the claims, according to Earle J. Trabert, director of Lancaster County Department of Public Welfare.

First of all, what ADC (or AFDC) is should be made clear.

According to a Nebraska Committee for Children and Youth legislative study, ADC is a child-care program which provides for the care of dependent children in the home of a parent, or relative if they are deprived of usual parental support.

The program is administered by the County and is subsidized by state and federal funds. Presently, according to Trabert, 60 per cent of the funds are federal and 40 per cent state.

Trabert says that in less than one per cent of the cases are services misused. "Most of these mothers do the best for their families as is possible under the circumstances."

Circumstances

And the circumstances may not be very good.

According to figures compiled in February, 1967, 67.5 per cent of the ADC cases have an unmet need. This of \$91.50 of unmet need per means an average amount case.

The present statutory

maximums for families on ADC, the largest single welfare program in America, are: Mother and child, \$100 a month; mother and two, \$115; mother and three, \$130; mother and four, \$145; plus \$10 per month for each child beyond the fourth.

Mrs. Doug Fleischer, a Lancaster County social worker, says that no matter what kind of program there is, there will be abuse, but that there is very little abuse here.

She says she may have a lot to do with the lack of abuse. As she puts it "Lincoln is too small to have the problems of abuse that the big metropolitan centers have."

According to David Matza's chapter on poverty and disrepute in Merton and Nisbet's Contemporary Social Problems, Nebraska ranked among those states having the lowest percentage of families receiving ADC assistance who were found wholly or partly ineligible.

Confirmation

This finding confirms Mrs. Fleischer's statements, since most of the states mentioned along with Nebraska were sparsely populated.

As of February, 1967, Lancaster County had 452 ADC cases, and according to the Nebraska Committee for Children and Youth study figures, Nebraska has 28 out of each 1,000 children on ADC. The national figure is 48 per 1,000.

Even though there are less cases on ADC here, the problem of unmet need is not diminished. According to the legislative study,

the statutory maximums prevent "approximately two-thirds of the families from receiving the amount determined by the Department of Welfare as necessary for minimum standards of health and decency. The average family whose needs are not met is short of meeting its minimum need by approximately \$86 a month."

Sen. John E. Knight of Lincoln proposed a bill, LB 563, which would change maximum Aid to Dependent Children payments and alleviate the problem somewhat.

This bill, which has passed, incorporates proposed maximums of \$110 for a mother and one child, and \$30 for each additional child per month.

According to the legislative study, the bill did not meet all the unmet need. It states "The bill would not guarantee meeting minimum need, as is done in about 21 states, but it would help, especially for large families."

Unmet Need

A Lancaster County study showed that 47 per cent of ADC families would still be receiving less than they need.

LB563 is a start though, according to Trabert.

In addition to having less families than the national average on ADC in Nebraska, Nebraska's families stay on ADC less time. According to figures in Matza's article, the largest percentage of families in the United States stay on ADC for five years or more.

Nebraska families average about two years on ADC, according to Trabert.

What are these families like?

In most of the cases, the mother is the parent in the home.

And most of the mothers work. According to Mrs. Fleischer, if they can work, and it is available, they are required to take a job. They are also required to hire a baby-sitter if necessary.

The average education of these mothers is below the high school level. Most available employment is low-paying. (Waitressing, working in a laundry, etc.)

Very few of these mothers are unwed.

According to the legislative study, only about one-seventh of all illegitimate children wind up on ADC.

Unwed Mothers

Figures from an ADC survey on 431 cases done by Lancaster County indicate that in only 11 per cent of the cases was the reason for going on ADC being unwed. Trabert points out that the nationwide percentage of unwed mothers is higher off assistance than on it.

Trabert thinks that the reason this is so is because birth control information

and prescriptions are available at the Public Welfare Clinic. And the women are encouraged to take advantage of this service.

Trabert points out that most of the mothers are between 21 and 35. This is "the most sexually active time in their lives," says Trabert, "and it is logical to encourage them to use birth control methods."

According to Mrs. Fleischer, who visits the families in their homes, most of the women are adequate housekeepers and good mothers. (As good as could be expected.)

In order to receive ADC payments, the woman must present proof of legal residence in Nebraska for one year, verification of all sources of income (child support, benefits, wages), verification of checking and saving accounts, and proof of utilities and rent payments.

According to Trabert, the family could have resources up to \$1,500 and be eligible for ADC payments. This could be a car, life insurance (cash value), or bonds.

After the Welfare Office has run a check on the family and the father's (or husband's) whereabouts, and if the family deserves welfare payments, the check is sent directly to them.

Case Worker

A case-worker is assigned to the family, and visits the home to find out the needs of the family and to specify the amount of money the family should get.

The case-worker is required to see the children every six months to check their health and condition. Resources are checked every three months.

Few of the families are hostile to the case-worker, and if they are, it usually is because they had a bad contact with a case-worker previously.

Few tell the case-worker everything. Mrs. Fleischer says it is because not everything is the caseworker's business (to do the job) and also because they sometimes feel that they will be condemned for the truth.

Though the case worker tries to be fair, she must be the one to decide on welfare questions, and she is therefore looked upon as a judge. As Mrs. Fleischer says, "The recipients consider case-workers hard-hearted, and the public considers case-workers hard."

It is the case-worker's job to judge these families, but it is not the job of the average citizen unless the correct facts are gathered and analyzed.

These families simply do not fit the critical stereotypes.

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Economist Urges Increased Aid

A University of Nebraska agricultural economist, Jack D. Timmons, has urged policy makers to start giving rural people guidelines and assistance that will result in real improvement of rural conditions instead of temporary relief.

Timmons told the American Country Life Association's annual meeting in Ames, Iowa, that there is little doubt that government services will continue to grow in quantity and quality.

He added that although urban areas will probably continue to enjoy somewhat higher levels of services than rural areas, the gap will narrow over the next several years.

Timmons noted that the nation's prosperity is based on the prosperity of the whole and all its parts. Rural areas have not been able to adjust to the effects of technological changes and government can play a major role in providing growth opportunities for the countryside.

He said there are three different kinds of rural areas. Even a relatively prosperous farming area with a stable population needs a thorough educational effort to help it achieve the level of services its people desire.

A second type of rural area, characterized by low

income, inadequate farms and a high level of out-migration has additional needs such as job training and relocation assistance which can only be provided with outside help, Timmons added.

The areas around rapidly growing cities have problems caused by too rapid growth and heavy pressure on governmental services which were designed for resident rural populations, he said.

Timmons commented that currently most rural areas have inferior public services and that rural government often lacks expertise and specialization.

He noted that many rural areas lack public health services, parks and playgrounds, hospitals and police and fire protection.

In addition, roads are deficient in many areas despite a fairly high per capita expenditure.

He suggested the formation of city-county planning commissions, health boards and similar services, internal reorganization by the counties and comprehensive planning as possible aids to rural areas.

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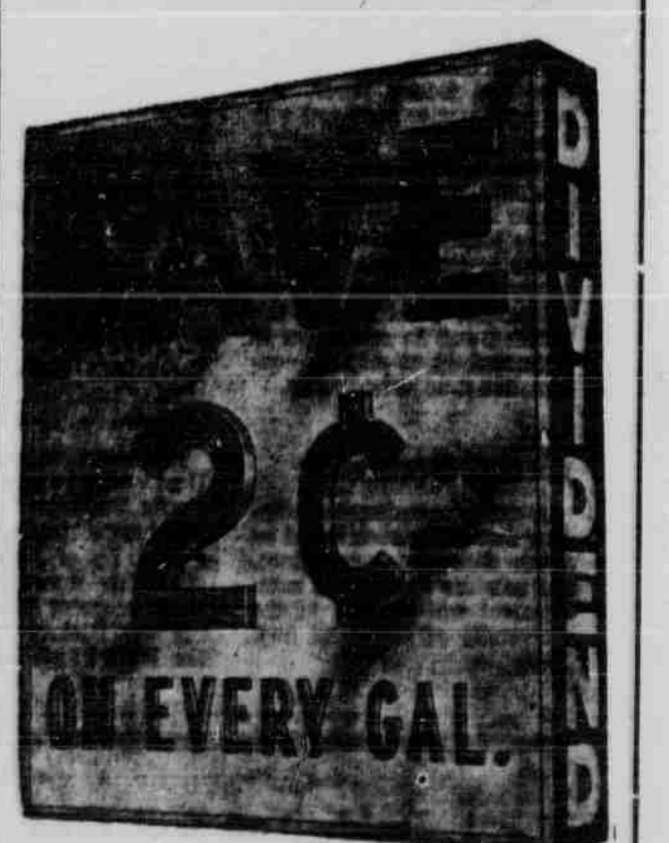
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