

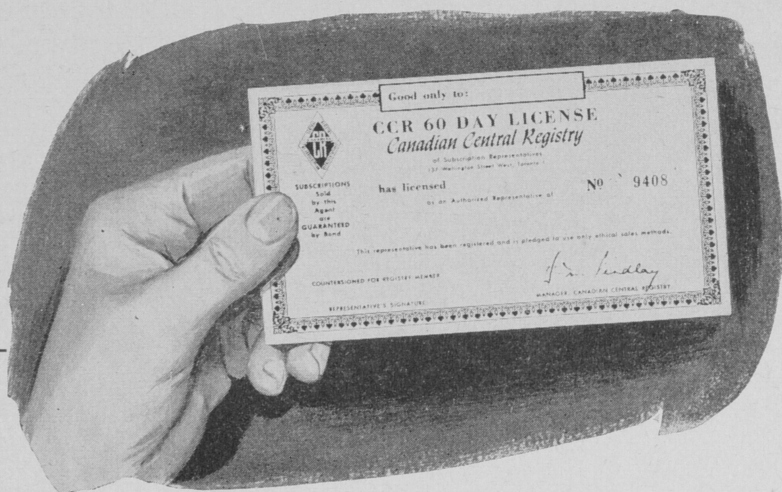
relationships and his behavior. This fact is well emphasized by the following excerpt from "The National Conference on Prevention and Control of Juvenile Delinquency, 1946":

The home is the cradle of human personality. Each person, from the moment of birth, is deeply influenced by the people around him. The baby is born not knowing what to think or how to feel about life, but ready to learn, and learn he does, willy nilly. From a warm, loving, stable family, the child learns that people are friendly, worth knowing, and can be depended upon. When a family is cold, despairing, rejecting, or neglectful, the child learns distrust, hostility, or downright hatred of people. Such families are to be found in all economic, cultural, racial, national and educational backgrounds.

That there is a direct and tremendously important relationship between person-

ality development and behavior there is doubt. What happens in the first six years of life is crucial in forming the basic structure of personality and while it may be possible to remedy at a later date some personality defects which develop in the early years the road to becoming a mature, socially responsible individual would be much smoother if these defects did not develop in the first place. Whether a person has a sense of trust in his fellows or is a suspicious, hostile, mistrusting individual, as so many true delinquents are found to be, depends primarily upon the kind of relationship that he has had with his parents, particularly his mother, in his early formative years.

If a child's early experiences with authority have been fair and just and authority has been imposed by an essentially warm, affectionate and loving parent, the acceptance of authority in later years poses no problem. Conversely, however, if a child's early contacts with



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