

*Measures Against Crime*

criminologists and psychologists developed scholarly theories in normative terms.

Two mainstreams however seem to emerge. One is based on the ecologic theory evolved during the last century. The other, the more recent psychological theory, draws upon fundamental criminology in terms of formal patterns. Supporters of the latter look to conditioning as prime factor in the disposition-forming process.

I draw upon Professor Eysenck, a renowned criminologist, to grasp the impact of conditioning upon individuals. In his book *Crime and Personality*, Mr. Eysenck, while granting official status to the psychological concept of delinquency, uses a Freudian concept, that of more or less suppressed aggressiveness, to strengthen his assertion that the degree of personality extraversion determines the marginal tendency to ward anti-social behaviour. This is where the "conditioning" factor comes in. It can eventually convert that simple disposition into a major personality feature. While reaffirming that his explanation is totally doctrinal and cannot explain the overall criminal process in man, Eysenck draws certain conclusions that appear to be quite pertinent on the possible ramifications of delinquent correction. He thereby attacks the remuneration concept of sentencing relative to the prohibited act that was committed. That result alone of the psychological analysis, if nothing else, would make Eysenck's work valuable.

And to quote the professor:

[*English*]

... the effect of reward and punishment depends entirely on whether the behaviour to which they are applied is frustration-instigated or motivation-instigated. In the latter case, punishment may itself constitute a frustrating situation, in which case it will either increase the strength of any frustration instigated behaviour already present, or transform the motivated state into a frustrated one.

[*Translation*]

Supporters of the ecological theory, on the other hand, favour a demographic and social approach to delinquency. Following analyses of popular environments as opposed to so-called "have" environments, certain constants were stressed, while certain variables were used as parameters.

Through ecology, we can better define the surroundings which might bring about a deficient environment. In the light of these somewhat academic comments, I admit, it will be agreed that poverty, especially urban poverty, has a definite influence on the development in certain individuals of a conscience that is anti-social to say the least.

From the numerous studies on the conceptualisation of the notion of poverty, the following two criteria should be kept in mind: environment and conditioning, both of which are present in all stages of delinquency prevention and remain operative when corrective action is necessary. Since the environment has a direct influence on conditioning, the only logical way to fight crime is through the elimination of the causes of delinquency. The thing to do therefore is to plan government action and coordinate the various programs, housing, health, welfare, community centres, towards a single objective: the improvement of the living conditions of the underprivileged.

It is in such a context that the rationale for potential rehabilitation and treatment systems can be found. In reality, we shall never be able to completely eradicate the harmful elements which make up individual behaviour

patterns, but once the environment problem is solved, it will be much easier to deal with the psychological causes of delinquency.

The second factor concerns social and police prevention and, in this regard, I have been surprised and shocked by the reactions of policemen and prison guards concerning the order and security program, and especially the abolition of capital punishment.

The excessive conservatism of policemen and prison guards increases violent criminality much more than it decreases or prevents it. It seems that the best way to hide one's own incompetence is to play on the emotions and the ignorance of the population, like some are now doing with regard to capital punishment. In my opinion, policeman and prison guard associations hide behind the death penalty their failure in the areas of prevention and rehabilitation. Police authorities must understand that their role is not simply to apprehend offenders or to make searches in an effort to prevent offences. The image of the policeman has suffered a lot from the military character that police forces have often given it. In fact, we have made a mistake in giving more and more power to policemen, like Bill C-83 is now doing, in return for the peace and safety of the citizens while providing little or no control over their actions.

Police forces have also suffered from the patent lack of recruiting and even training. To be really efficient, policeman should act as a human affairs officers. Indeed, they also seem to suffer from the fact that they have to enforce unpopular legislation and also from the fact that they have dehumanizing and lowly jobs to perform such as giving parking tickets.

The policeman's role should be especially oriented towards two things, first, crime prevention through information programs and education about the role of the policeman, and second, the traditional criminal investigation which could bring about an arrest.

In its report "Sentences et mesures non sentencielles dans le processus pénal", the Law Reform Commission of Canada clearly states that, considering that the community should deal with most problems and disputes in an ordinary fashion, that is without having recourse to criminal law and without necessarily fighting in courts, one should encourage police forces, social services and other community organizations to help individuals, families, schools and other groups to solve the problems and conflicts which affect them without taking legal proceedings.

At any rate, it seems obvious that if we want to recruit policemen with some knowledge of psychology or human relations, one will have to entrust them with more responsibilities than those entailed in purely mechanical tasks. We should therefore create a department within the police which should entrust ordinary civil servants with some of the functions which are now in the hands of policemen, such as fines, traffic control, clerical tasks, reports, and so forth. The police would be the first to profit from such a diversion of tasks, the first benefit being to assure them a far better public image.

I would like to quote a passage from *The Challenge of Crime in a Free Society*, a report of the American presiden-