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ON CHILDREN OF NYC  
INC. 1947-58

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October 16th, 1947

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt  
29 Washington Square West  
New York, N.Y.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I am pleased to have you send us the enclosed letter from Josephine Shively. I would have been delighted to write to her but, as you will see, there is no return address on her letter. I suppose this happens a number of times.

We shall be delighted to answer comparable letters from people asking for information about children's services in New York City any time you see fit to send them to me.

I am sorry this woman failed to give us her address.

Cordially,

*Charlotte Carr*  
Charlotte Carr  
Director

Enclosure

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September 29, 1947

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt,

Could you tell us more about the programs discussed by Mrs. David M. Levy's organization.

It seems to me that PTA groups, Church organizations and others should work out better educational programs to see to it that children get the care they need in the home as well as in the schools.

High School children should be taught and helped to improve their living conditions — boys could learn to wire their own homes, pipe water into the kitchen, etc. — material for these jobs could be made available to them through the schools at discounts quoted electricians carpenters, etc. Girls should be encouraged to work together in their neighborhoods, sharing modern time-saving equipment and exchanging special aptitudes for certain homemaking tasks to eliminate drudgery in many homes. (By the way such a program might give mothers the time needed to train children of pre-school age in the ways of peace — your recent column TRAINING FOR PEACE PROPOSED).

I wonder if any of our benevolent groups did anything to save the 13-year old boy from a life in the penitentiary — or the three children from the landlord's injustice. (clippings attached)

Sincerely,

Josephine Shively

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MY DAY

# Teen-Ager Clubs Get Support

*Reaction  
Sept 29*

By ELEANOR ROOSEVELT  
HYDE PARK, Sunday — There is grave concern these days about our children. When I praised a



Mrs. Roosevelt

teen-age center not long ago where youngsters were running a show of their own and seemed to be happy in doing so, I received a horrified letter of protest. It came from someone who must be living back in the dark ages when entertainment of any kind was considered sinful, and when children, girls especially, were chaperoned from morning till night! These teen-age centers, in actuality, are among the things that many of our educators feel have contributed largely to helping us cut down juvenile delinquency.

In the great city of New York there is an organization, headed by Mrs. David M. Levy, which is concerned primarily with small children and with schools from nursery grade through high school. Friday morning this committee held a meeting to discuss problems pertaining to public schools in New York.

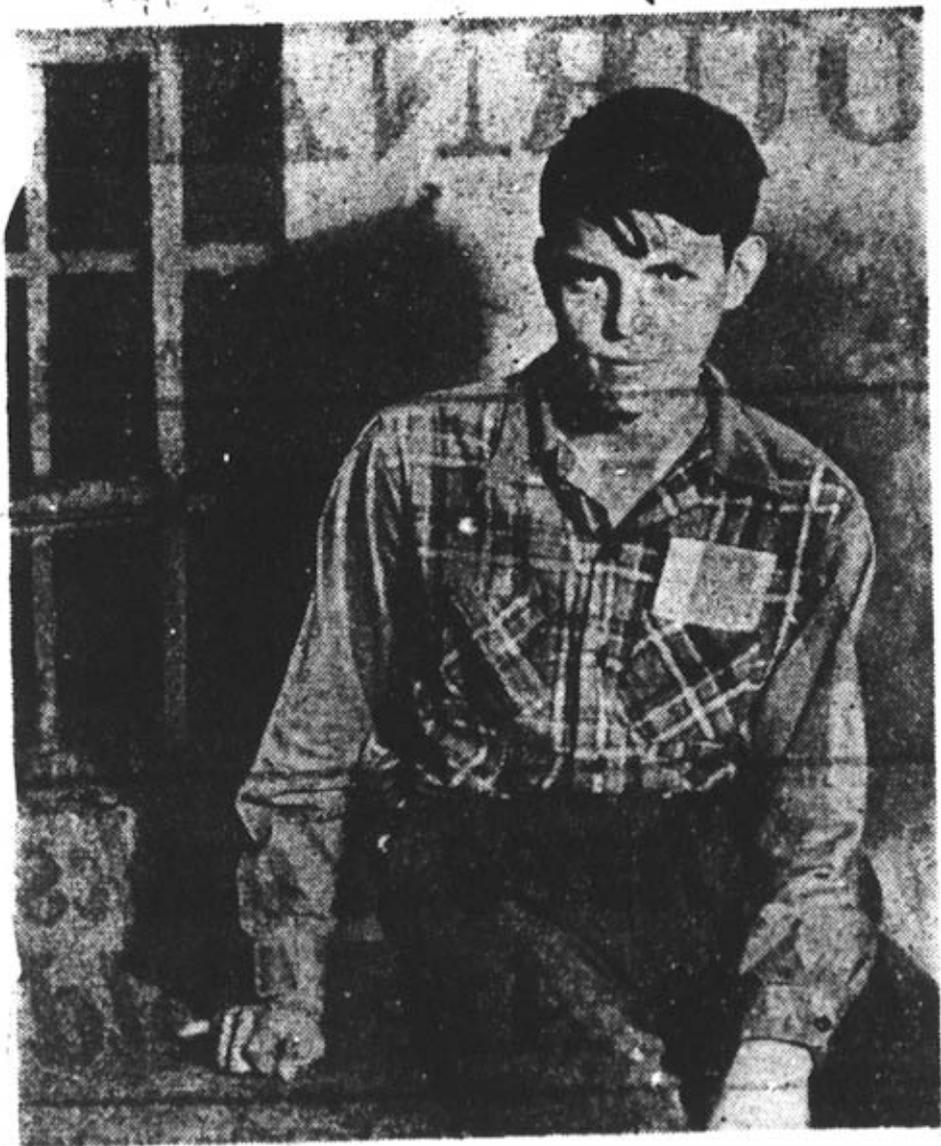
ORDINARILY, I would say that our schools everywhere in this country are making improvements—varying, of course, according to locality, but basically meeting the same difficulties. But I am a most afraid, in view of some of the things that have been said during the past few days in my committee at the UN, to acknowledge that anything in the United States needs improvement! Every speaker has insisted that institutions in his own country are well-nigh perfect, or at least have been improving with astonishing speed.

I think the United States has done well, but not well enough by our children. Studies such as those done by the citizens committee on children will do a great deal to help us. One of the phases of this report is significant. It deals with the experimental programs which have been carried on in some of the schools and which will be a factor in their gradual improvement.

**BUT WE ALSO** need better teachers, better training for our teachers and better pay. We need parents who are better educated and closer to the teachers with whom their children spend so much time. From my point of view, the parent-teacher organization in this country is one of our most important groups. It reaches into villages and cities and can be the most effective force for improving our schools and our children's lives.

Strange though it may seem, our schools can profit much from what was learned during the war by those who tried to help our servicemen improve their level of education. The program of school health should be watched with great care. It can be of value only if there are enough school nurses, enough doctors and dentists actually to visit the schools and to see that the children get the care they need. I think in many places one of the most important factors in the school health program is a school lunch program. If all these things could be done—as is suggested in the report of the citizens committee on children—and done all over our country, I think our juvenile delinquency problem would decrease very rapidly.

Re *The Journal* Sept 29



### **BOY, 13, GETS LIFE FOR ROBBERY**

Crawford Casebolt, above, 13-year-old seventh grade school pupil, sits in the courthouse at Pikeville, Ky., where Circuit Judge R. Monroe Fields imposes a life sentence at hard labor on him following his conviction of armed robbery. Casebolt and two older accomplices were found guilty of robbing Harold S. Roberts last July of his automobile, watch and \$4.84 in cash.—AP Wirephoto.

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## **BEHIND THE FRONT PAGE**

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**BROKEN HOME**—An Akron war veteran, a long distance truck driver, will come home from his run this week to find his three children—aged 5, 3 and 7 months—in Children's home. His wife has finally decided to quit fighting the landlord who has been trying for weeks to force the family to move.

The landlord lives in the other half of a double house on North Hill. He wanted the family to move so he could rent the place to someone without children.

First the landlord filed an eviction suit in municipal court and lost it. That was five weeks ago. Then he shut off the water, gas and electricity leading to the other half of the house.

OPA was unable to give the family any help because the original agreement between landlord and tenant did not cover utilities.

Sympathetic neighbors loaned the use of their kitchens and bathrooms and the family got along fairly well until cold weather set in. Then the children began to come down with colds.

Yesterday, with the husband and father away on a truck haul and all three of the children sick, the worried young mother received another three-day eviction notice. That was the last straw. The mother decided to call it quits and let the children go—temporarily, she hopes—to the Children's home.

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