ER

Ernst, Margaret

February 4, 1947

Dear Mrs. Ernst:

I am very glad to accept your criticism, but "good progressive" schools are too few.

The lack of some discipline is one contributing factor in juvenile delinquency.

Very sincerely yours,

ORIGINAL RETIRED FOR PRESERVATION

46 West Eleventh Street
New York City

February 2, 1947

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt,

To those of us who love you and look up to you as a wise leader of liberalism in America, your column of last Monday on progressive education and delinquency came as an incredible shock.

Good progressive schools do not discard discipline. They substitute for the old repressive methods a truer discipline, the discipline of the individual by himself because he wants to be part of his community, and because he soon learns that he cannot function in a group if his own personality is more important to him than the good of the group. Out of these children — all too few — will come our future citizens trained to care about their family, their town, their country, their United Nations. They seem to me the hope of the world. I only wish there were more progressive schools.

Do you know of any statistics proving that delinquents are the product of progressive

education? I do not. If not, your generalization is cruelly akin to the bigotries you fight.

You know Connie and Roger, both graduates of the City and Country School, one of the oldest progressive schools. Do you think they, and thousands of young people like them, are undisciplined raw material for delinquency?

I hope that you will, in some future column, set this attack right, and take away from the forces of illiberalism the weapon you handed them last week. They will use this weapon ruthlessly.

I am sure you know that I am writing you in this critical mood only because I am among your devoted admirers -

Sincerely,

Margaret Ernst

I am glad to accept the criticism but "good progressive" schools are few & the lack of some discipline is the contributing factor in juvenile delinquency.

S. Ernest

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt

Ernest - (Pat Sheridan)

It was extremely kind of you to make such an attractive centerpiece for my table on Easter. My guests & I enjoyed it.

With many thanks

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