



Fighting Delinquency ^{5/1/68}

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WASHINGTON.

If you go back far enough into the life of James Earl Ray, wanted for the assassination of Martin Luther King, you will find the reason which started him on the road to crime was what starts most crime in the U. S.—juvenile delinquency.

When Ray was a boy going to school at Ewing, Mo., in the 9th grade, he stole the school's hot-lunch money and tried to blame it on a classmate, Carlyle Washburn.

That was Ray's first brush with the law. From this first escapade he went from bad to worse. Every time he got into jail it was for a longer term for a worse crime, until he ended by being accused of the murder which brought near civil war to the key cities of America and forced the calling out of 21,000 troops.

This week the top leaders of Washington are attending a dinner to raise money for Big Brothers, which throughout the U. S. attempts to guide fatherless boys. There are 20,000 fatherless boys in and around the nation's capital, thousands more in the rest of the nation. All of them are basically good boys, and with guidance none are likely to go wrong.

All the specialists report that the family plays the most important part in building a child. He can be raised in the slums, in abject poverty, even without much education, and if he has a strong father and mother he will not only survive but become a constructive citizen.

The American system unfortunately destroyed the Negro father. There were no Negro fathers in slave days, and the welfare system of today has decreed there must not be a man in the home. This is the greatest cause of juvenile crime in the major cities.

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Frank Sinatra is coming back to the nation's capital this week for the first time since he sang for John F. Kennedy on the night Kennedy was inaugurated President of the U. S., Jan. 20, 1961. Sinatra is coming back with his full Hotel Fontainebleau musical show to help raise money for

Big Brothers.

In Washington, Charlie Cohen, now 80 years old and once a power in the American Legion, remembers when Sinatra was singing with Tommy Dorsey. Frank was relatively new in the music world then and was Dorsey's vocalist.

This was during World War II when Cohen, a veteran of World War I, was chairman of the American Legion's war bond drive in the District of Columbia.

Sinatra confided to Cohen what most people don't know—how he had tried to enlist in World War II but was rejected because the medics found he had a punctured eardrum.

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Hubert Humphrey's invasion of Mississippi last week indicates the amazing changes which have taken place in the South.

In 1948 Humphrey almost bolted the Democratic Convention in Chicago when his fellow Democrats refused to go for civil rights. At that time, Mississippi delegates were among the most vigorous in opposing Humphrey.

Twenty years later, Humphrey flew to "Ole Miss" at Oxford to breakfast with an integrated group of Mississippians, including Charles Evers, brother of the slain Medgar Evers of the NAACP; Dr. Aaron Henry, the Negro druggist who ran for Governor; and white Lt. Gov. Charles Sullivan, together with representatives of Catholic, Protestant and Jewish organizations.

Calling upon Mississippi to lead the way in the South, Humphrey said:

"We are not interested in the sins of yesterday. The reason I came to the university is because I am interested in the men of tomorrow. Few people in this country get a chance to go to college. You have a great opportunity, not merely to earn money but to build the character of this nation.

"An old teacher of mine once said the test of a man's religion is not merely how you treat God but how you treat people. You in Mississippi are proud of your reverence for God. I know you have the same reverence for people."