

On Dr. Arnold Hutschnecker, see this file 11 Apr 70 for other refs.

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**Himself**

**Feds Spy on Poor Kids**

AMONG the many rare birds who surfaced in the White House during the reign of Richard the Peacemaker, few were more rarefied than Dr. Arnold Hutschnecker. Hutschnecker was Nixon's internist in the four years before 1955. He later met often with the then President to discuss "philosophical ideas."

Hutschnecker later switched from internal medicine to psychotherapy. He once had to deny the accusation of the late Drew Pearson that he practiced shrinkery on Nixon. "Advised on psychiatric problems," was the way Pearson put it.



One of the more bizarre of the Hutschnecker philosophical ideas which almost became settled White House policy in 1970, was that all children be psychologically tested at age six with ink blots.

The idea, which Hutschnecker proposed for the Health, Education and Welfare Department, was that these ink blot tests would detect punitive criminal tendencies in children. The "hard/core" of these "future delinquents" would be sent off to appropriate "camps" where they would learn more socially accepted behavior patterns.

Incredibly (or all too credibly, if you think that way) this nutty proposal was okayed by John Ehrlichman, then Nixon's chief aide for domestic affairs. Hutschnecker told reporters that he had had discussions with members of the Presidential staff about specific tests that could be used to carry out his proposal.

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A SAMPLING of the mind of Dr. Hutschnecker, as inserted in the *Congressional Record* at the time. He's talking about city crime. "Urban reconstruction (i.e., reducing city crime) takes a long time. I felt testing would be a quicker way to determine who the future delinquents are. The hard core should be confined to camps where they would learn more socially accepted behavior patterns."

When stuff like this got out, the *merde* hit the fan. Hutschnecker gradually receded from public view, into the recesses of his New York East Side shrink practice. He was, at that time, too rich for the country's blood.

But bad ideas, once introduced into the machinery of a bureaucracy, have a terrible tenacity. The particular bad idea of Hutschnecker had and has an obscene appeal for the bigots of Suburbia. If you can't prevent poor kids from being born, the next best thing is to throw the difficult ones in the cooler as soon as possible. Hutschnecker's ideas were made for this kind of mind.

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IN EFFECT, and appallingly, the HEW is today doing just what Hutschnecker proposed in 1970. It's a story that deserves attention. One reporter who gave it a great deal of same is Diane Bauer. Some of her findings deserve the widest publicity.

Whereas Hutschnecker proposed "screening" all the young, the HEW spying system concentrates on the poor young. As of now, 13 million children in and below the poverty level are being spied on, or helped (as you choose) by a program of free medical tests. Among these tests are those for *soi-disant* personality and psychological disorders. These are the old Hutschnecker ensigns to detect the *potential* deviant, criminal and mere problem child.

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THE MOTHER, who is asked a lot of questions, is unaware that the doctors grade her answers and put them into the child's federally computerized dossier, which of course will pursue him through the course of his life. The doctor's opinion of the goodness or badness of the relationship between mother and child is encapsulated for eternity.

None of this is denied over at HEW. The deputy director in charge of the program, James Kolb, says about 3 million kids already have gone through some form of mental health screening.

More tomorrow.