

Publishers of
ONE-SENTENCE ECONOMICS
AND WORLD-LEPROSY

- Howard W. L'Hormmedieu

An end to monopoly — in gov-
ernment, banking, land, patents,
mergers, trade unions, medicine.

Rational, humane laws. Prisons
abolished; replaced by fines,
with psychiatric treatment if
necessary.

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DOSSIER

The Secret Files They Keep on You

-Aryeh Neier

Executive Director of the American Civil Liberties Union

Assess full ground rent, without
exception, for ethical revenue
source, low improvement taxes,
an end to speculation. Choice of
sites at true rental value will en-
sure a surplus of safe employ-
ment, at wages equal to one's
production.

Government restitution for offi-
cial or private injuries. Polygraph
tests to be accepted as evidence.

The author believes that our right to work could best be achieved "if all dossiers described in this book were assembled in one place and a fire set to the lot of them." Man can devise loopholes to defeat any safeguards set up. (Dossiers are some of the cords which Lilliputian monopolists, sadists and assorted bumbleheads use to immobilize the public Gulliver.) Schools keep records beyond grades and attendance, to include personal idiosyncracies and those of parents-matters of inconsequence, irrelevance or prejudice, and often of great damage to the students' futures, in further schooling and jobs. Students are graded on their political ideas and on interpersonal relationships with other students and with teachers-even denied diplomas and transfers. Some are incorrectly classed as "mentally retarded," because of specially oriented I.Q.s or language difficulties-and get almost no attention. Some are grouped in fast, medium or slow classes-of negligible benefit to the first, and a detriment to the others. Attempts are being made "to validate certain hypotheses on delinquency prediction and prevention." A girl who had a short interest span, didn't have fun, and stole some pencils was classed as a potential criminal. Students were asked how much their parents loved them, and to describe their confidence or lack of it, in facing problems. Potential drug users are presumably detected. Baltimore has an "Early Identification and Treatment of Delinquent Behavior" project, to develop tests to identify "maladaptive," "dangerous" or "potentially delinquent" children. A 50 % accuracy is tolerated. Men with XYY chromosomes are theorized to have extra masculinity, and therefore extra aggressiveness. It has also been suggested that 6-to-8-year-olds be tested for "violent and homicidal tendencies" through such devices as Rorsbach ink blots. All should then be segregated for "corrective treatment."

100 documents record the name of an arrested child. They are available to almost anyone. The Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children is used to determine where to place neglected children or lawbreakers. Those with low grades go to institutions for the mentally retarded, where they are not helped; those with middle grades to state training schools (often extremely brutal); while the higher ranking may go to private institutions. YD, or Youth Division cards, are "based on unreviewed observations by police or probation officers." They are given for such matters as pitching pennies, throwing a snowball or smoking. An accumulation may commit a child to an institution as a "Person in Need of Supervision." New York State police fill out 2,000 petitions a year to get children institutionalized, and families, schools and social agencies are persuaded by police to fill out many more. In small towns, police may regularly harass anyone they decide is a "bad kid." One million children a year are brought into juvenile court; 400,000 detained as law violators; the remainder dismissed or treated informally. The records all remain, for everyone to see.

There are 200,000 active heroin addicts in the country; half in New York City. The usual treatment is methadone, which enables people to live an almost normal life. California has compulsory commitment for drug users. They place them in prisons, which they call hospitals, supervised by guards, whom they call counselors. Even a voluntary patient in a psychiatric institution, who later rated in the top 1 % of a Medical College Admission test, was refused admission to 13 medical schools. One-tenth of the population spend some time in a mental hospital, while many others see psychiatrists. They are fingerprinted like criminals, and denied public housing and jobs. There are 10 pages of different types of discharges from the armed services, each with an identifying number. About a million veterans were given bad discharge codes, making it almost impossible to get a job in government or a large percentage of private business, or even care for disabilities incurred in service; some for being unable to adapt, unsanitary habits, financial irresponsibility, bed wetting, alcoholism, drug

addiction, etc. Minorities receive two-and-a-half times the percentage of such discharges as others; all without review. (A private employer is likely to give an unsatisfactory employee a good reference, and at least wouldn't hound him through life, for inadaptability to his particular business, for personal prejudice, or irrelevant or alterable habits.) The Veterans Administration drug programs are not available to drug addicts-no honorable discharge.

Arrest records follow one to the grave, whether or not there is a conviction. A white who is arrested once will, on the average, be arrested 7 times; a Black 12-1/2 times. The record makes one a suspect for other crimes; Blacks being picked up "on suspicion" or "for investigation" four times as often as whites. In 1964, 98 % of those picked up "for investigation" were released with no further proceedings. (25 % of persons picked up are beaten.) Arrested persons have proved as efficient and honest as those never arrested. The arrest record of a relative may deny one a job or public housing. Even a mistaken identity arrest record makes one "arrest prone"-being picked up without cause. Conviction records often require special agency intercession, in order to get jobs (especially for women, who may have to be sponsored for fake jobs by a white slave or shop lifting ring, to get out of prison on parole). F.B.I. files keep people on the run, trying to escape them. Separated from family, friends and home surroundings, they are less law abiding. The files are usually of use only inadvertently, when one's fingerprints are sent in on an employment application, or because of a traffic violation or injury. One or two prints taken at a crime scene are of no value. Credit bureaus maintain files on about 120 million Americans, and include a great deal of unchecked gossip, along with inevitable errors. Much data is inconsequential or irrelevant-even an unpaid parking ticket. They deny people jobs or justifiable credit, and victims are not given hearings.

The F. B. I. was given a bastard birth, 7-1-1908, during a six-month Congressional adjournment, after Congress had rejected authority for its creation, on the grounds that "'No general system of spying upon and espionage of the people, such as prevailed in Russia, in France under the Empire, and at one time in Ireland, should be allowed to grow up.'" (Those opposing wars, in favor of civil rights and economic justice, or even adequate charity, or who commit "crimes without victims," by violating sumptuary laws, have been hounded out of jobs, black-balled, robbed, beaten, imprisoned, and killed by the F. B. I. and coordinating agencies.) "The computerization and consolidation of personal data...can be transformed into efficient social control instruments of a totalitarian society." (The same has been claimed for our increasingly oppressive and often unconstitutional laws. As was said long ago, the Constitution is what the Supreme Court says it is.) 90 % of Black males get arrested. (As a Black woman put it, "If you're Black, and go on the street, you'll get arrested.") In 1970, only 44 % of white poor had both parents in the home; 24 % of Black poor. "The dossier...sends young black males on the run from the police, the armed forces, and the record which labels them as 'unfit' or 'criminal.'...(records) punish people, though the dossiers compilers seldom admit this is the purpose or acknowledge that it is the consequence. Because they have such enormous punitive impact on their direct and indirect victims, I want to destroy the dossiers."

(Dossiers of all kinds resemble the yellow tickets formerly carried by French ex-convicts, such as Victor Hugo's Jean Valjean. If people can't work, they are reduced to starving, begging, stealing or prostitution. They can't legally exist. We are enamored with our toys of records and computers, but only justice, not repression, will solve our problems. The C. I. A. was formed to suppress local opposition to our foreign exploitation. While we are abolishing it and the F. B. I., we should replace penology with monetary restitution, as recommended by experts for 100 years. Suspects and prisoners must be permitted to prove their innocence, if they wish, with a psychological stress evaluator (PSE) or polygraph test; also abuse, warranting official restitution. We should ensure surplus jobs, by making all sites available at their true rental value, through the full assessment of ground rent, progressively, within five years; releasing all emotionally stable prisoners, as jobs became available; liable only for such monetary restitution as seems reasonably justified and possible. When the public organizes, to exercise cross-checking lay control over the most vital functions of government, it can eliminate any given form of oppression, and all oppression. If we eliminate the unemployment, poverty, slums and crowding which contribute to disorder we shall reduce the demand for suppression, which now causes us to condone official illegality and idiocy, creating an ever less workable society.)