

House Parents:

"You can't have no type of rehabilitation unless you have some type of discipline because the girls were out in the street doing everything they want to do. Then they come here to X and do half the things they want to and they are not disciplined and we are not teaching them no sense of moral value and no sense of responsibility. They can't have no rehabilitation program not unless you have some type of discipline first for the girl."

"What values do they want to teach the children? What do they want us to do because we could do a lot more than what we are really doing but you don't really have a chance."

"A set of values has to be set down by administration. We have to decide what goals. Administration will have to decide what goals they want to meet with these girls and they have to set a standard and have us go by this standard. I see no point in a girl going back home and getting dope that night. It just isn't helping at all."

Young Women Inmates:

"In here, it's take care of Number One. I don't see that. To me that's conceited - I'm taking care of myself and don't care about anyone else - they can do what they want. That's what this world is. Take care of yourself and leave Number Two alone. I don't want to change because of that. You see something bad here--everybody's stuck up like a pole or something. I don't want to be that way. It's on the outside even if you're not locked up. People will lock you up and run your life. This is what X is doing right now--trying to run your life and these girls don't want to be run they want to live their own life."

"I thought the training school would teach you something but what the housemothers tell me this ain't no training school and we haven't learned nothing since we've been in here but to bicker."

Social Workers:

"I think one of the biggest threats we have

is that we don't know what we are doing. Our role is very undefined and we have had a lot of difficulty with it. Historically, social workers here have not had that much power, they haven't had a defined role. We get stuck with a lot of cleaning up of dirt. We don't know what we are doing. We are supposed to be therapeutic in a custodial institution which immediately puts us in a bad position. Are we really therapeutic? I really don't see where we are trained to deal with it. A B.A. from college does not teach you any therapeutic principles. You have no idea in an interview how to approach subjects, how to get information from the kids without threatening them. You end up making fantastic mistakes and alienating them forever, at least from you. Those are big problems we have here. We don't get that much training. Mr. _____ spends most of his time with administrative duties, we don't get supervision, through no fault of his. We get crisis supervision - what do I do in this case - but as for him training us in therapy we don't get it."

"In those sensitivity groups we had we really found out how diverse we all are philosophically, morally, whatever you have, and I wonder if that isn't part of our departmental problem we have right in social service. Clinical is saying absolutes, absolutes, absolutes and I don't mean to sound all kind of personal all of a sudden, but I think it is a problem."

"Then people who work in one institution can't always believe the same way as you. We can't ever hope to achieve that because I'm never going to believe absolutes and he is never going to believe what I believe. It's just a matter of how we are dealing with it and we aren't dealing with it. How are we going to accept the fact that Mr. _____ believes in absolutes and the rest of us don't. We can never hope to achieve unity in that way."

Young Woman Inmate:

"I'd rather kill my own child than to bring him up so he could wind up in city jail, state

penitentiary. Why should I bring something into this world I have already been through? If my mother couldn't change me, why should I try to change a child of my own?"

Psychotherapist:

"I don't believe there is a reconciliation. As I said before, the institution is evil even though it is a necessary evil. I work with my feet on the ground and this is the environment and I will not be able, because I am not Nixon, to change this today or tomorrow. I will not find three hundred families to accept three hundred girls. This is reality, so even though my approach is completely pessimistic basically, at least I can make something out of what I have on my hands. In my hands now I have this type of institution, these poor girls. They are wounded, they are frustrated, they are rejected, so let us do what we can. I think the reconciliation is only psychological but if you try to be concrete and wise trying to make something out of what we have even though if I could have done something - if I had the power on a fantasy level, I would destroy all institutions."

Young Woman Inmate:

"People are tired of running like dogs and cats. That's what it seems like. Once you are raised up running it seems like it's no end to it. You feel like you're going to run all the rest of your life. And, be ashamed to walk the streets because they say yeah, that's the girl they locked up and it hurts it really hurts. You have to be proud of yourself, and your people. They laugh in your face and call you all kinds of names - that hurts. If people kick you down, how can you trust somebody? Do they trust me, say I'm their friend? Huh! They don't trust anybody."

The video tape transcripts, a history of the institution and other selected materials will be available soon in book form.

People interested in the clinical and political implications of this effort may write: A. Engelman, SRA, Antioch College, 535 St. Paul Place, Baltimore, Maryland 21202.

