

Harry W. Hakim

STANDING COMMITTEE
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FAMILY, COMMUNITY,
HOUSING & YOUTH

Submission No. 72

(Youth Violence)

A.O.C. Date: 10/03/2010

The Chair & Committee
Parliamentary Enquiry Regarding Children

Dear Chair & Committee, Apologies. Only just learnt of your Committee.

I have a range of relevant facts to report. I'm 81 heading for 200 NoOut, which means I grew up prior to & after WW2.

① Eight & one-half years ago, whilst minding my eldest girls children, I had to intervene 3 times between the older brother beating up on the younger (2½ years) difference. It amounted to his wanting of a ball the other was playing with between himself & friend.

Now the ball was not his ball, nor his brother's, but was originally the eldest brother's ball, so not the reason of ownership, just being big bully, & not intending to use it himself.

Three times sent to his room with lots of protests & saying it was "his right." "It's my right Grandad, it's my right?"

Well things were quiet for 10 minutes & I thought, great. Then behind me I heard him in the kitchen & thought he was making a sandwich, so took no notice.

"It's my right Grandad, I'm HeMan, & it's my right." At that moment when his Mum, came home & saw the knife raised & he behind me. Just in time.

Quite a lot of explaining ensued about what kids watch, what sticks, what's real reality & what is not. My daughter uses the TV to hold kids attention because she has to work & then do meals & housework. A lot of that still happens even today, even though these are people working age & working. Some rules are now being applied, but for lots of constant hassle to get results. The lad from above is not so bad (though language is shocking) & helps his Mum more than others do.

② I'm bringing in what I see is important & yet is so often dismissed in various ways. Influences & The lack of training to evaluate & to question/2

In addition, another major omission in bringing up children from their earliest years is the ability to listen, free of ones own prejudices or judgement. Unless one does this they do not get the true picture & sense of what is being said, where the attitude & motivation is coming from. One needs to do this, in conjunction with observing, evaluation & questions.

That, & genuine caring & love give one understanding.

But today everything is going at great pace, much more so than during WW2 & following on WW2. The type of music has changed & so has dance, fashions, particularly womens fashions, beach wear, womens attitudes also, as a result of the pill & Womens Lib Movement. During WW2 women were needed & the result was they could do almost all jobs as well as any man, even tradesman level in some cases. That gave them a freedom because they had their own money, but not quite, even yet.

My mother had to have my Dad give his permission to have a bank account. Fathers had to do same for daughters. Unmarried mums had their babies taken & adopted.

T.V. has changed things a great deal. Computers & the internet & mobile phones even more so, & we have not really managed to handle it intelligently yet.

Though lots of change has been beneficial, a great lot has not been of benefit because people have not even thought to question, to observe & to evaluate. They are too emotionally swept up, many just copy what they see.

(2A) A short time after WW2, in my late teens, I became a Scouter because there was a real shortage of men & the local Scout group leader, a returned serviceman, became very ill & had to give it up. I had two helpers — Mentors really, one Mr Justice Adrian Curlewis, Chief Justice of NSW Childrens Court. The other, "Murray" Watson, State Solicitor General & State Chief Scout. Both had been lads & then Scouters with my group.

Their concern for youth & what was shaping their ideas & morals were deep & very non religious, extending beyond Scouting into Surf Life Saving & other Sports & clubs. Over Five years they had made a study of all cases coming into the courts of N.S.W., they were concerned for how the children's family life experience had developed, so they had background & how that background affected the child's ideas, inclusive of the kind of comics & radio & Saturday afternoon movies & magazines they read, what songs they liked.

They found the kids home life did affect what sort of things they liked as well as how that material was reflected in the crimes or reasons for the kids being in court. In fact the volume & variety of stuff in the media coming into circulation; especially from USA, was in parallel with the increase & type of problems coming into the courts.

But if one raises this as an area of influence affecting numbers of people there is a huge beat up on human rights, a persons freedom of speech & right to choose. Censorship should be a parents responsibility ^{but} Parents do not know. Money & profits are involved. Politicians are really good at dodging the truth, & are too interested in retaining their seat.

2B

I've been senior on remote, but quite major civil works of various kinds. We have work forces of 300 to 1200 plus ^{for many we} establish Townships for aboriginal people. So we had a mix of single & married accommodation, & as any current remote Township in remote area of WA, Northern Territory, S.A.

So I've had quite a mix of personalities & their problems to manage sometimes. Any such sites have everything necessary for any community, a Supermarket, post office, bank, cafe/lounge, bar & club, sports area, Community dining, medical, various offices, school etc.

We have movies & closed circuit TV, in some cases yesterday's programmes brought up by air.

What all that above leads to is that at every remote site if there is a safe robbery in the films we will get some copy cat attempts on some of the safes we have, in particular, the supermarket, the bank, the Post office, but others get a go just to be different. Quite a variety of situations get copied, Fast cars & cops, we do have police & security, its necessary, & anything macho: Macho really stinks up our accident factors on site. Some wind up quite serious. "A Man Called Horse," had 2 RFDS priority one that some night with a doctor & Nurses flown up first AM next day. They came in 2 more priority one went out & we had some 30 more sent home to recover.

That was one movie & one night that had weeks of problems following it. The fact is people, numbers of people, do copy, do not see it as just entertainment. Look at what happens to Face Page & Twitter. Look at the sex perverts, the way virus to steal your identity & your bank accounts. Look at bullying by internet & mobile phone & how people react to this. All ages are affected.

Yet kids see "their" computer is their private & very personal, not for parents property.

(2C) I've just returned from WA. I've seen what is now accommodation for a single fly in fly out workforce. Its Four Star motel level, better even than my own when I was Project manager, but I was staggered by the amount of Porn & violence movies the person showing us his "donga" had. Literally hundreds of each, & from what he said they were very crude, but his girlfriend had ones that he thought were worse. Some magazines he wanted to show me I declined. These were 22 year olds. I've young granddaughters. Is this how things will be when they reach teens? I'm really lost with young peoples attitudes these days, & that includes their music, language, & lack of social respect & responsibility. I've lived in a commune. We all went skiing dropping, whole families, so all to see was seen, but sex was private, personal stuff, not for community viewing. We cared for our women & kids, both boys & girls. LOVE is not sex, though sex can express ones LOVE. We had humour & were happy. We did not need jokes that were yukky sex stuff.

③ One would have thought that Banks, Governments & Religions would have learnt from the Great Depression & WW2 that followed. We have not. Everything is greed & materialistic these days. People have not learnt very much. Rather we seem to have gone backwards, especially with regard to women & sex, & women seem to be participating in that area. That's a worry.

I really care about life & people. LOVE has depths & beauty that children need, so they know they are wanted, that they belong. Understanding grows as the child grows & is taught to observe, to listen, to evaluate & question. That teaches them the beauty of life & the wisdom of love. We make our life worthwhile that way.

Respectfully

Harry W. Rubin 04-03-2010

Sex is essential for evolution. Plants pass on through their genes the accumulated experience of their predecessors in that environment. That is how the various ecological systems with the accompanying animal life developed. (These do not have brains like ours, so do not have minds, so how does that happen?)

We humans, whom rate ourselves as being more intelligent, seem to have failed somewhat in understanding the responsibilities involved with sex, & our own lives, as well as that of the entire life system of the planet.

Instead of belonging to the planet, & the life system here, we see the planet as belonging to us to use as we like, abuse as we like, same as we do in many cases, with one another.

Through science & research aided by computer technology, ^{& photography} we are now able to see the great beauty & intricate design & adaptation that has occurred over millions of years. We know lots more also about our human bodies & also stress & fatigue.

But anthropologists have found there were peoples whom once lived in harmony with their environment & were skilled enough to live healthy, & also, happy lives. Everything they needed was there, available, & not overplundered, so next time it was needed there it was.

These were sensitive people. They saw themselves as "The People" & it was their "Land" to care for as custodians, not owners. People, humans, responsible for their land & for each other.