PUBLIC OPINION NEWS SERVICE

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"What Should be Done About our Teen-Agers?" No. 4 in a Series

Whippings Worked Best With Kids in their Day, Parents Say

However, They Differ Today in Views on Oldest Age At Which A Child Should be Spanked

By GEORGE GALLUP

Director, American Institute of Public Opinion

(Fourth in a series of articles dealing with the American public's views on the problem of juvenile delinquency today.)

PRINCETON, N. J., Nov. 19—"Spare the rod and spoil the child" seems to have been a pretty effective theory when today's parents were teen-agers, judging by the views of adults interviewed in a coast-to-coast survey by the Institute.

Four out of 10 persons (40 per cent) questioned in the survey said they remembered a good, old-fashioned whipping as the kind of punishment that worked best on children who misbehaved.

To see how widespread these views are today, the Institute sought to determine the oldest age at which parents think a child should be spanked.

The following question was put to a representative cross-section of adults by Gallup Poll reporters:

"Looking back to when you were a teen-ager yourself, what kinds of punishment seemed to work best on children your age who refused to behave?"

Here are the results:

Whipping	40%
Taking away privileges	25
Being kept at home	11
Given a "good talking to"	8
Made to sit in a corner, sent to their rooms	3
Others	12
No opinion	8
	107%

The above table adds to more than 100 per cent since some respondents mentioned more than one type of punishment.

An interesting sidelight is that almost half of the men questioned (48 per cent) felt that whipping was the most effective form of punishment when they were children, whereas less than one-third of the women (31 per cent) were of the same opinion.

Whipping as a punishment was still first in number of mentions, however, by both men and women.

When parents were asked what they felt was the oldest age at which children today should be spanked, the largest group (32 per cent) said they believed children should be punished by spanking until they are 12 to 14 years old.

One person in 20 (5 per cent) says a child should never be spanked.

Here is the question, asked of all adults in the survey:

"What do you feel is the oldest age at which children should be spanked?"

The results:

OLDEST AGE CHILD SHOULD BE SPANKED?	
2 years and under	1%
3 to 5 years	3
6 to 8 years	9
9 to 11 years	18
12 to 14 years	32
15 to 17 years	13
18 years and over	4
Never whip them	5
No opinion	15
	100%

In a survey reported Friday, the Institute found that a majority of American parents believe today that, in case of a serious breach of discipline, school officials should have the right to give pupils a "licking."

Fifty-five per cent of those interviewed felt that school officials should have the right, 42 per cent said they should not and three per cent had no opinion.

COMING SUNDAY (MONDAY)—Do parents place any blame for teen-age crime on comic books? How do they view the effect of mystery and crime programs on TV and radio on our teen-agers?

Read the public's answer on Sunday—one of a series on "What Should be Done About our Teen-Agers?" by the Gallup Poll.

The Gallup Poll is an exclusive feature of the

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