

efforts being made to help them find the right kind of job and to protect them from injury and exploitation. To insure safe employment for young people, special provisions have been written into the law relating to child labor, and it is one of the important functions of the Department of Labor and Industry to carry out and enforce the provisions of these laws. The most important event in this field of endeavor in the last decade was the rewriting of these laws along modern lines in 1950.

Everyone agrees about the importance of happy family life for children, and about the importance of parents who are themselves good citizens and good models for their children. Unfortunately, each year there are thousands of families in Maryland which are broken, sometimes by death, but more often by divorce or desertion. For those of us who are interested in children, these families present a special challenge, and during the last ten years an increasing effort has been made to help stabilize them. Religious leaders have increased their counseling services and both public and private social agencies have placed more emphasis on work with these families.

Family stabilization remains, however, the number one challenge facing our social welfare agencies. Although many of these families are in need of financial assistance, some of them would be in dire need and some children would, of necessity, be separated from their mothers if it were not for the financial aid and counseling services available to them through the Aid to Dependent Children Program. In spite of all efforts of the community, some parents are unable to care for their own children and many parents are found so seriously wanting in those qualities adjudged necessary for good parenthood, that children must be removed by the court

Beginning in 1950, much concern was expressed concerning the problem of juvenile delinquency. No statistics were kept during the early part of this decade which would give an indication of the extent of this problem. In 1957 the Bureau of Child Welfare of the State Department of Public Welfare, in cooperation with the juvenile courts of the State, gathered for the first time, statistics on the number of delinquents appearing in juvenile courts. During 1958 there were 8,056 children who were brought into Maryland juvenile courts upon charges of delinquency.

Essential to the attack on juvenile delinquency in every community is the juvenile court. Every judge needs the help of a skilled staff operating as part of the court to gather facts, to recommend plans for children, and to give probation services. Much progress has been made