

NEWS RELEASE

Technologist Suggests Meta Trial-Judge Review 97 Year-Old Letter as It Relates to the Damage Done by Social Media to Today's Children

Summary:

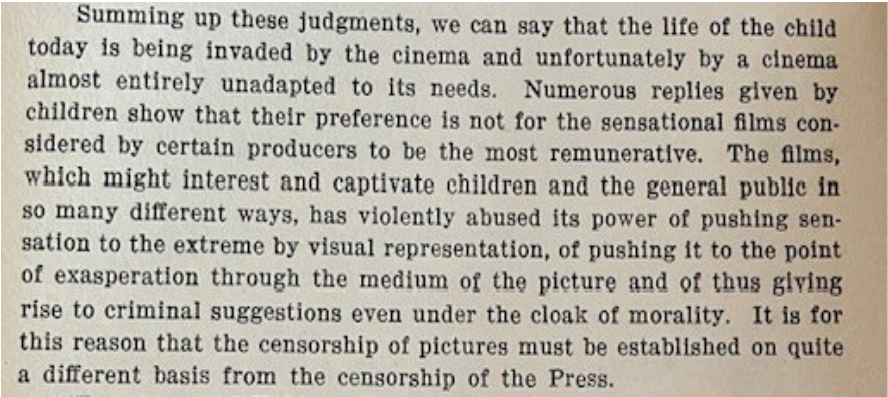
A 1929 letter written by William Seabury, former General Council to the Motion Picture Industry, that preceded **Hollywood's Voluntary 1934 Hays Code**, to the Oregon Supreme Court, which spoke about the dangers of media content on children, is still relevant today and suggests the dire necessity for a similar code to protect our youngest and most vulnerable citizens, from today's social media platforms.

"There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children."

Nelson Mandela, May 1995

Santa Cruz, August 21, 2026: A California-based technologist would like to refer, Judge Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers, to a 1929 letter that "echoes today's dire situation, in regards to children and the negative effects of social media."

This private letter from, William Seabury, author of the 1929 Book, Motion Picture Problems, The Cinema and The League of Nations, summarizes his findings and demonstrates his stance on the potentially dangerous effects of media on children. The letter is addressed to the Hon. Kenneth R. McIntosh, at the Temple of Justice, Olympia, warning of the impact and resulting negative consequences of motion pictures, on the youth of America. And per the passage below, we have a parallel situation today:



Summing up these judgments, we can say that the life of the child today is being invaded by the cinema and unfortunately by a cinema almost entirely unadapted to its needs. Numerous replies given by children show that their preference is not for the sensational films considered by certain producers to be the most remunerative. The films, which might interest and captivate children and the general public in so many different ways, has violently abused its power of pushing sensation to the extreme by visual representation, of pushing it to the point of exasperation through the medium of the picture and of thus giving rise to criminal suggestions even under the cloak of morality. It is for this reason that the censorship of pictures must be established on quite a different basis from the censorship of the Press.

Passage from page 31 of MOTION PICTURE PROBLEMS (published 1929)

Social Media and the Damage Done:

Technologist, Peter Mackeonis commented, "My 40-year technology career started in the early PC days of 1984 as the marketing director of MetaComCo, the software language company I co-founded with friends, and as a website developer since 1994 I have watched social media exert an increasingly negative and influential force on the world's children, from toddlers to teens. It is generally accepted within the medical community that excessive social media use, among children, is linked to higher rates of anxiety, depression, poor sleep quality and negative body image. Spending more than three hours a day on-line doubles the risk of mental health issues, compounded by cyberbullying and a constant fear of missing out on what their peers are doing (FOMO). As parents' smart phones and social media platforms attempt 'age-restriction' technology, they seem incapable of controlling damaging content, so we maybe we need to look at the other end of the telescope and impose a stricter code of publishing ethics on these platforms."

Members' Freedom of Expression:

While no doubt imposing restrictions on social media platforms will be seen, by many, as over-regulation and interfering with freedom of speech, the argument for such action is justified by the platforms themselves, as while they continue to say they are doing everything they can to remedy the situation, it has been stated by many former tech employees that instead of getting serious about this issue, their focus continues to be on making their sites more 'sticky.'

Section 20 Protection:

The argument that social media is being protected against prosecution by Section 20 of Communications Decency Act is negated by their employing algorithms that disregard the safety of the methods, for their shareholder's benefit, so, if the platforms will not change their attitudes and have the home-grown AI tools at their disposal, then their attitudes have to be changed for them.

Past Solution: The Hays Code 1934-1978

In 1931, the Motion Picture Industry, influenced by the letter of, William Seabury, was forward thinking, or sufficiently logical, which seems completely absent in today's 'stewards,' to understand the need of a voluntarily introduced, 'Hays Code,' for production standards.

In Closing:

As, Nelson Mandela, stated when he launched the 'Children's Fund' in South Africa, in May 1995, **“There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children.”**

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Email: comments to Peter@Mackeonis, or text through WhatsApp on 1.831.840.3729.

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BAR BUILDING
36 WEST 44TH STREET
NEW YORK CITY

June 1st, 1929

Dear Judge Mackintosh:

Now that the scope of the work of the National Commission on Law Observance and Enforcement has been defined to include a study of the causes of crime, an examination of proper remedies for these causes, and an effort to correct the widespread disregard and disrespect for law and law enforcement, I beg to present to you, as a member of the Commission, with my compliments, a copy of my recent book entitled "Motion Picture Problems".

You will observe from pages 32 to 37 that the failure of the Federal Trade Commission and of the Anti-Trust Laws in their application to the Motion Picture Industry has now become so pronounced that Senator Walsh of Montana, on May 3rd, 1928, offered a resolution for the investigation of both of these agencies of Federal law enforcement.

Intelligent citizens find it difficult to preserve any sense of confidence in the administration of Justice by these Federal agencies if it is necessary or desirable to induce the simple performance of their duties by Congressional or other

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investigations. Pages 22-31 present grave questions of public welfare which suggest that the motion picture is and for years has been a "school of crime", as one well known publicist has described it.

Whether or not the motion pictures of the past decade constitute a substantial and important contributing cause of crime, particularly by young people, and whether they have promoted and still promote a general disregard and disrespect for all law and law enforcement cannot be ascertained authoritatively until a truthful descriptive analysis of the plot, theme, and action is made of the pictures circulated by the ten leading producers and distributors of this country during the past ten years, and until we have ascertained what the approximate percentage of youthful attendance at these theatres has been and is.

It has been stated that 75% of the attendance has been and is composed of people under 24 years of age. If this is true, the admitted increase in the commission of crime by young people in this country is not without its significance, if the analysis of the subject matter supports the report made to the Child Welfare Committee of the League of Nations, from which I quote at Pages 30-31 of my book.

Trusting that you may find the work of use and value to you at this time, I am, with best wishes for the success of the Commission's undertaking.

Faithfully yours

W. Marston Seabury
William Marston Seabury

Hon. Kenneth R. Mackintosh
Temple of Justice
Olympia, Washington

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