Peikoff Speaks Out on Crime

BOSTON - Dr. Leonard Peikoff gave his diagnosis and prescription for crime to an overflowing crowd at Blackman Auditorium at Northeastern University on April 23rd. Peikoff's speech, entitled **"What to Do About Crime"** was sponsored by Boston's venerable Ford Hall Forum, where Ayn Rand had spoken year after year.

Dr. Peikoff first cited some startling statistics:

- **Three fourths of all crime is committed by a small minority of career criminals.**
- **Career criminals commit on average from 100 to 1000 crimes in their lifetime.**
- **In early childhood almost all were juvenile offenders, some as early as age four.**

Peikoff then identified five acquired traits in criminal type personalities, based on the latest research:

1) **Impulsiveness** - weak self control; need for immediate satisfaction; short range and present oriented. In essence, perceptual level creatures.

2) **Anti-Intellectuality** - contemptuous of the abstract.

3) **Resentment** against authority - defiant; criminality is a real "high" in his life; his whim rules.

4) **Amorality** - morality is nonexistent; he is oblivious to it; even weak impulses can cause erratic behavior; no absolutes.

5) **Victimization** - feeling of injustice caused by others; keen sense of "his rights"; all others are his enemy.

Dr. Peikoff went on to say that an apt slogan for the career criminal is **"down with mind and reality; up with me!"** He suggested that his audience read Ayn Rand's essay **"Selfishness without a self"** as the best explanation of such a mentality.

Then Peikoff went on to discuss why there are so many criminals today. He used a frightening statistic: most serious crime rose 300% between 1960 and 1980. Then he stated that one prime factor changed during that period -- the ideas and values of America during the "counter culture" period beginning in the 1960s.

During previous low crime periods in U.S. history, there were many anticrime ideas at work, such as emphasis on study, learning and thought; a strong belief in free will, hard work, self help and individualism; restraining self indulgent tendencies; objective thought and absolute principles.

But, Dr. Peikoff stated, the sixties brought on sustained anti-conceptual ideas of sacrifice as noble; violent clashes among men are unavoidable; every inequality is an injustice; anyone with less is virtuous. Dr. Peikoff went on to say that the ideas of the last three decades were a perfect philosophical breeding ground for criminals. **"Criminals have dispensed with the remaining veneer of civilization."**

Dr. Peikoff's prescription is to **teach the right ideas... a rational philosophy, stressing long range thinking, reason, principles, reality orientation, moral absolutes, ambition, independence, and living by the mind.**

Peikoff also saw a glimmer of hope for rehabilitating some current criminals. In particular he recommended the method cited in Stanton E. Samenow's book, Inside the Criminal Mind.

Dr. Peikoff fielded a wide array of questions during the Q & A. One question from the audience dealt with the Oklahoma bombing. Peikoff denounced the bombing as the "essence of Nazism" by people "completely blind to individual human beings... totally collectivist."

(Editor's note: Dr. Peikoff's talk contained much more than our space has allowed. I urge AOB members to get the audio tape, video, and/or written transcript as soon as they become available.)

Ayn Rand Stamp Proposed

AOB members Robert Begley, Mike Gedge, and Charles Sures have proposed an Ayn Rand postage stamp. Director-at-Large, Mike Gedge, has put forward the following proposal:

"Many Objectivists would like to see an Ayn Rand postage stamp. In addition to the well deserved honor it bestows upon her, it is an excellent way of bringing her (and thus her philosophy) to wider public attention. AOB member Charles Sures, who collected and exchanged stamps with Ayn Rand, has suggested that 1997, the fortieth anniversary of *Atlas Shrugged*, would be an appropriate issue date for the stamp. He has also suggested the portrait of Ilona as the illustration, and advises that this was Ayn Rand's express wish.

If you wish to promote the Ayn Rand stamp, make your recommendation to The Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee, c/o Stamp Management, U.S. Postal Service, 475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Washington, DC 20260-2437. To ensure a steady flow of letters, please send two a year: one on your birthday and one on some other personal day. The criteria for judging stamp subjects are available from the Postal Service."

AOB President to Keynote Inner City School

Ken West has been invited to give the commencement address to the Children's Academy in Newark, New Jersey on June 23. The storefront school in downtown Newark, which caters to gifted inner city children up to the age of seven, has been the focal point of national media attention, beginning with a lead article on the Wall Street Journal's editorial page on May 18, 1995, entitled "All Children Are Gifted Here." ABC's "Good Morning America" show is also doing a segment on the school.

After reading the Wall Street Journal story, AOB President, Ken West, called the Children's Academy for information on how interested parties could help. While speaking with the school founder and director, Ilse Nathan, West mentioned that he headed a business association inspired by the ideas of Ayn Rand. Ms. Nathan told West that her favorite author was Ayn Rand and that Rand's ideas continued to inspire her as well. **Nathan then asked the AOB President if he would speak at her school's commencement... on the ideas of Ayn Rand!**

AOB News will be there to report on Ken West's keynote to the parents, teachers, and children of the Children's Academy.

Kirkpatrick Advertising Book Praised by Top Marketing Prof

In Defense of Advertising by AOB member, Jerry Kirkpatrick, has drawn praise from Shelby D. Hunt of Texas Tech University. Mr. Hunt is considered by many to be the top name in marketing theory. After reading a favorable review of Dr. Kirkpatrick's book in the Journal of the Academy of Marketing Science (Vol.23, No.2, 1995 , pp. 141-145) Professor Hunt bought a copy of the book and read it. He then sent Kirkpatrick a letter, praising important aspects of Kirkpatrick's moral defense of advertising, especially the critique of perfect competition.

Peikoff Speech to Young Presidents Club Now on Video

Leonard Peikoff's speech to the prestigious Young Presidents Club (Metro New York Chapter) on January 17, 1995 is now available on video. The club is nationwide, with members comprised of CEO's under the age of 40, of million dollar companies. The videotape of this session is now available on a limited basis from the Ayn Rand Institute.

The tape is not for sale, but is being made available free of charge to officially recognized campus clubs, various Objectivist associations and groups for group showings at specified dates and times. For information contact Dave Bombardier at the Ayn Rand Institute at (310) 306-9232.

Reisman Finishes Capitalism Treatise

Dr. George Reisman has announced that he has finished his latest book, **Capitalism: A Treatise on Economics**. The manuscript has gone to its publisher, Jameson Books of Ottawa, Illinois, to be published sometime next year.

Dr. Reisman also reports that The Jefferson School is continuing to publish the literary version of Leonard Peikoff's series *Founders of Western Philosophy: Thales to Hume,* edited by Linda Reardan. The first two lectures are currently available, and more will be available. TJS also publishes in a single pamphlet Ayn Rand's brilliant essays *"Man's Rights"* and *"The Nature of Government",* as well as titles by George Reisman and Edith Packer. (They also carry Jerry Kirkpatrick's book reported on above.) For ordering information write to The Jefferson School, P.O. Box 2934, Laguna Hills, California 92654.

New York City Grants Final Permit to Empire State Building

Close to sixty years after opening for business, the Empire State Building was granted its "Final Permanent Certificate of Occupancy" in 1995 by New York

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