

Answered May 2/73

THE ONTARIO INSTITUTE FOR STUDIES IN EDUCATION

252 BLOOR STREET WEST, TORONTO 5, ONTARIO, CANADA

TELEPHONE 923-6641

DEPARTMENT OF APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY

April 3, 1973.

Mr. Lanny Beckman,
Mental Patients Association,
Vancouver, B. C.

Dear Mr. Beckman:

I am writing in reference to your research report: The hip adolescent, his family, and the generation gap, which you produced for the Committee on Youth Report. I found it quite a thorough study and use it for a course that I am teaching at The Ontario Institute for Studies in Education. The pattern of results that you obtained with the OPI is almost identical to those that I obtained with my thesis on student politics at the University of Toronto (The student movement of the '60s). In your study you refer to a scale that measures hipness. Would you be kind enough to send me a copy of it? I would be interested in using it in my own research.

Thank you for your trouble.

Yours sincerely,

Jack Quarter

Jack Quarter.

JQ/jk

Shifting Ideologies Among Youth in Canada

Jack Quarter

The Ontario Institute for Studies in Education

In 1971 a Government-sponsored Commission on Youth titled

It's Your Turn... stated as follows.

"Young people in Canada show every indication of joining the great refusal taking place throughout the world. Their confidence in the existing order is being undermined on two fronts; not only are they forced intellectually to challenge many of the values inherent in our society, but also the traditional motives or incentives for participation in the "system" are increasingly unavailable. This refusal which ranges all the way from disenchantment to rejection, is manifest in many ways -- the growing absenteeism in high schools, the decline in university enrolment (relative to predictions), the demand for storefront or street services and, especially, the marked increase in drug use among all classes of young people." (Hunter, Bourdon & Kelly, 1971, p.4)

The Committee on Youth Report has employed Herbert Marcuse's label of "the great refusal" to describe the outlook of many diverse subgroupings -- including youth who have moved to rural communes, those living in urban enclaves, a drug culture, political activists, and perhaps a majority who keep one foot in the door and another outside. In some cases the differences between these groups are greater than the similarities. Moreover, the various subcultures are not the exclusive domain of youth (in a chronological sense) because some adults identify with the sentiment that is being expressed.