

## AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

We, the Minnesota Association of County Probation Officers, in regular assembled session, in the City of Anoka, in the State of Minnesota, on the 30th day of June, the year of Our Lord, 1958, do publicly ordain and make known that we do wholeheartedly support and affirm the premise on which the Juvenile Court System of this state was established some 58 years ago; namely, that a child who cannot incur a civil debt because of a legal inability to enter into a contract, cannot reasonably be held to incur "a debt to society" by the commission of a criminal act. We further attest to the fact that the juvenile Court exists not as an agency to shield the juvenile from the consequences of his actions, but, by whatever means are available, to modify his attitude, to control his instinctual drives and impulses, and to help him become a contributor to, rather than debtor of, the community in which he will ultimately become either a valuable asset or an expensive liability. Firmly convinced that "individualized justice" rather than retributive punishment is the solution to juvenile delinquency, we do further make known that we sincerely believe and support, both collectively and individually, the following:

1. that the 87 Juvenile Courts of the State of Minnesota should be served by Probation Officers.
2. that this probation service should be administered on a county level and that the Probation Officers should be appointed by the Juvenile Judge and approved by the Board of County Commissioners as now set forth by statutes.

3. that a uniform set of standards should be established and put into effect governing the appointment of Probation Officers based upon personal and educational qualifications.

Being firmly convinced that the above will be socially and economically of utmost benefit and service to the people of Minnesota, we further firmly oppose any move which is perpetrated or designed to minimize the authority of the Juvenile Judge or the, Board of County Commissioners in relation to the establishment of probation service and the appointment of Probation Officers. We are likewise opposed to any move which will subject local autonomy to a central control when the very basic tenent of the Juvenile Court and of probation is to keep the service as close as possible to the child and his family.