

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMISSION ESTABLISHED TO INVESTIGATE AND STUDY THE RELATION BETWEEN JUVENILE DELINQUENCY AND THE DISTRIBUTION AND SALE OF PUBLICATIONS PORTRAYING CRIME, OBSCENITY AND VIOLENCE.

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*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives.*

The personnel of the special commission established by chapter 137, Resolves of 1955, was appointed on October 20, and the Commission met and organized on November 7, holding subsequent hearings on November 14 and 21 in Boston, and holding public hearings November 28 in Fall River, and December 7 in Springfield. These hearings have shown widespread interest on the part of the public, and have raised serious questions regarding the constitutional limitations of statutes under the first and fourteenth amendments to the federal Constitution, and other problems involved in the interstate circulation of comic books and other publications.

The commission desires to confer with other recognized experts in this field, which the limited time specified in chapter 137 did not permit. Accordingly, the members unanimously agreed to request that the time for this study be extended to permit them to confer with additional authorities and to hold one or more additional public hearings, in the hope that a full report could be made during the 1956 session of the General Court.

The Commission, accordingly, recommends the adoption of the resolve attached hereto.

RICHARD H. LEE.  
MARY L FONSECA.  
PETER B. GAY.  
GEORGE W. PORTER.  
THOMAS J. O'CONNOR, JR.  
EDWARD H. LANDY.  
RABBI ISRAEL J. KAZIS.  
MSGR. FRANCIS McELROY.  
DOROTHEA JOHANNSEN CROOK.  
EDWARD A. WEEKS.  
DONALD H. RUSSELL.

## PROPOSED LEGISLATION.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty-Six.

RESOLVE REVIVING AND CONTINUING THE SPECIAL COMMISSION ESTABLISHED TO INVESTIGATE AND STUDY THE RELATION BETWEEN JUVENILE DELINQUENCY AND THE DISTRIBUTION AND SALE OF PUBLICATIONS PORTRAYING CRIME, OBSCENITY AND VIOLENCE.

1 *Resolved*, That the unpaid special commission estab-  
2 blished by chapter one hundred and thirty-seven of the  
3 resolves of nineteen hundred and fifty-five is hereby re-  
4 vived and continued for the purpose of continuing its  
5 investigation and study concerning the relation between  
6 juvenile delinquency and the distribution and sale of  
7 publications portraying crime, obscenity and violence,  
8 including —

- 9 1. The effect upon juveniles of such publications;
- 10 2. The extent of the sale and consumption of publica-  
11 tions which contain reading matter of an obscene or  
12 suggestive nature, or which portray in photograph or  
13 cartoon obscene or indecent acts or situations, or which  
14 contain pornographic material, or which depict or explain  
15 methods of inflicting bodily injury or of committing  
16 crimes, or which emphasize brutality, violence or crime;
- 17 3. The provisions of sections twenty-eight to twenty-  
18 eight H, inclusive, of chapter two hundred and seventy-  
19 two of the General Laws applicable to such publications  
20 and their effectiveness; and
- 21 4. The effectiveness of the code promulgated by the  
22 Comics Magazine Association of America, Inc.

23 Said commission shall be provided with quarters in  
24 the state house or elsewhere, may hold hearings, ad-  
25 minister oaths, require by summons the attendance and

26 testimony of witnesses and the production of books and  
27 papers, may travel within and without the common-  
28 wealth, and may expend therefor and for legal, technical,  
29 clerical and other services and expenses the unexpended  
30 balance of any sums appropriated under item 0256-20  
31 of section two of chapter seven hundred and eighty-four  
32 of the acts of nineteen hundred and fifty-five, and such  
33 additional sums as may be appropriated therefor.

34 Said commission shall report to the general court the  
35 result of its investigation and study and its recommenda-  
36 tions, if any, together with drafts of legislation necessary  
37 to carry its recommendations into effect by filing the  
38 same with the clerk of the house of representatives at  
39 such time or times as it may seem desirable, and in any  
40 event, shall file a report not later than the thirtieth day  
41 of April in the current year.