Section D

Child Welfare, Juvenile Justice, and Compulsory Education
By the early 1900s child labor was becoming less needed: “Machinery has advanced, apprenticeship has declined”

- Education was increasingly being viewed as the way to avoid “dead-end jobs”
- School, rather than apprenticeship, increasingly became the route to technical jobs
- The rise in individual education allowed people to enter a trade without a sponsor—professional education started taking off
Child Labor Laws

- First law, 1916
- Declared unconstitutional in 1918
- Constitutional amendment proposed in 1924, but failed
- By the Great Depression, child labor laws codified what was essentially in practice anyway
The emergence of high school did not fully take root until the Great Depression of the 1930s, even though Horace Mann wrote of its importance in the 1850s.

- First high school: Boston English High School, 1821
- 1800s: schooling more likely to be reserved for girls
- Public education was supported by labor unions in the 1800s
- Philadelphia Central High School
- Prevailing notion in the 1800s was that schooling was bad for women’s physical and mental health
Juvenile Justice System

- In 1875 Boston had a separate trial system for youth
- In 1899 Chicago set up a juvenile system
- 1900—Denver

Source: Benjamin Lindsay.
Denver System

- Rules of evidence did not apply
- No determination of guilt or innocence
- Proceedings were secret
- Indeterminate sentences
- By 1945 all states had a juvenile court system in place
- It was not until 1967 that the U.S. Supreme Court said that minors had a right to “due process”