Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Class:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

QUOTES by and about Capone

The following quotes are authentic, in some instances from stenographic records, in

all others confirmed by two or more newspaper accounts of what he said.

**Describe each quote and what it tells you about the effect of Prohibition in the United States. Describe your opinion of Al Capone based on each quote.**

1. Asked if he was a bootlegger: "Sure, and some of our best judges use my stuff."
2. "All I ever did was sell beer and whiskey to our best people. All I ever did was to

Supply a demand that was pretty popular."

1. "Public service is my motto. Ninety percent of the people of Cook County drink and gamble and my offense has been to furnish them with those amusements. My booze has been good and my games on the square."
2. "They've hung everything on me except the Chicago fire."
3. "Every time a boy falls off a tricycle, every time a black cat has gray kittens, every

time someone stubs a toe, every time there's a murder or a fire or the marines land in Nicaragua, the police and the newspapers holler 'get Capone.' "

1. On the stock market crash of '29: "I deny absolutely that I am responsible."
2. On corruption: "I got nothing against the honest cop on the beat. You just have them transferred someplace where they can't do you any harm. But don't ever talk to me about the honor of police captains or judges. If they couldn't be bought they wouldn't have the job."

8."A crook is a crook, and there's something healthy about his frankness in the matter. But any guy who pretends he is enforcing the law and steals on his authority is a swell snake.

1. The worst type of these punks is the big politician. You can only get a little of

his time because he spends so much time covering up that no one will know that he is a thief.

1. On the need for gang peace: "I don't want to die. Especially I don't want to die in the street, punctured by machine gun fire. That's the reason I've asked for peace. I've begged those fellows to put away their pistols and talk sense. They've all got families,

too.

1. On his gambling habit: I've lost a million and a half on the horses and dice in the last two years. And the funny part is, I still like 'em, and if someone handed me another million I'd put it right in the nose of some horse that looked good to me."

**About Capone**

1. By her son, a Chicago police sergeant: “My people thought of Capone as Robin Hood."

2. By Capone's favorite newspaper photographer, Anthony Berardi: "He was no hero to me. He hurt the Italian people."

1. By Eleanor Medill Patterson, newswoman, interviewing Capone:"Capone's eyes are 'dime novel' gangster's eyes. Ice-gray. Ice-cold. I could feel their menace." In fact she liked him.
2. By Morris Becker, dry cleaner, who enlisted Capone as a partner to fight extortion by the Master Cleaners Association: "Al Capone was scrupulous in living up to his bargain? If I had it to do over again I would never ask a more honest partner in any business."