

## CHAPTER 5: CRIME

"19<sup>th</sup> century **radicals** believed the **OPPRESSIVE Capitalist system creates crime and criminals...**"

**1980's:** "Life is getting **drearier and drearier.**"

**"NO-ONE** really likes **reality** anymore... "

**"REALITY** = "The **hard** facts of life."

**1986:** "Britain has a **lower** crime rate than America, Canada and Australia."

(The **system** expects people to **stay** in control.

You can stay in society as long as you are seen to follow rules - no matter how **crass** the rules are. The system wants compliance. **Loss of Control** = You are **Dangerous**. You **have to be put away.**)

**1990:** "... it has become a crime to be **young...**"

**"THE STREETS ARE NOT NICE PLACES..."** "... it has recently been revealed that the number of **assaults against the police**, and the number of hospitalised police is **dramatically increasing...**"  
EG. "... in one incident a policeman was nearly killed when 4 men surrounded him and used *his truncheon to beat* him..." **Why?** ("**We'll** give them a taste of their own **medicine...**") "... there are robbers now, who **rob the rapists...**" **"400% increase of attacks against property...."**

"... As long as *it* remains **unlawful, more people will be committed to prison.**"

**"More and more people are being locked up!"**

**"It's about time we** had a **respectable** answer from a **responsible** minister..."

**1991:** "**AN EPIDEMIC OF JUVENILE CRIME!**"

"Well, what are we going to do about it? **Are we going to have lawlessness?**"

**"Soaring street crime!** It seems the latest **craze** is that **the young** will do **anything** to get put away!"  
**Why?**

**REACTIVE BEHAVIOUR...** Some people **BEG** to be **locked up**. "I just can't cope with 'life' **out here.**" "Lock me up. Lock me up. (i.e. **Get me off the streets!**) I want to be locked up. **DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND.** ... I can't be held responsible for what I might do... I might lose control. I can't take this strain any longer."

"Go away son. You're just being silly..."

"All the **cells are full...**"

"I'll really do some damage. **They** might **listen to me** then..." **Children** stab themselves in the stomach, mark their bodies with knives (**self-harm**) because all the **frustration, confusion and anger rages** within..."

"How to help **demoralised** people?" ("Go on, give it a try." "Give it a go!")

**"If it is allowed to drift...** we could have **absolute mayhem on the streets soon!"**

(Said whilst **riot police** were **wielding batons** on the **housing estates, across Britain:**

"There were 80 arrests, then 10 arrests, then 16 arrests..." **"They** will get **heavy** sentences" 4/9/1991).

**CURRENT THINKING:** "It's not the place that's the problem; it's what's inside you.."

(Ah! "**Our understanding** of 'it'?)

**"THIS SOCIAL DISEASE..."** (What shall we call it?)

**"STREET CRIME?"** "What is the **war** for?" "What shall we call this war? This web... **Corruption?**"

**NOTE:** There is repeated use of the term '**mindless violence**' by those who discuss rising crime. Much of the violence is not 'mindless.' The sad fact is that you do not understand how **hard** 'life' is for **the under-privileged**. It's no good moaning about "when I was young, I didn't behave this way." Times have changed. Things are more complicated these days.

**1992:** "**CRIME IS STILL RISING...**"

**General Assessment:** "There is **outrage, anger, despair, and public concern.**"

**"WE'RE UNDER SO MUCH PRESSURE!"**

"The very **fabric** of society is **breaking down...**"

"**London** has hit a new record. **One million crimes a year.** London is 'the Crime City of Europe'... the latest statistics, which the government want suppressed..."

"Violent behaviour is linked to **frustration...**"  
(28/5/1992) "*It's a goal!*"

**"Enforced Boredom" = Hooliganism:**

**STOP KICKING... AWAY.** ("*Kick the old habit. This is the new stuff...*")

"No doubt youth will get a kick out of it."

("... *it can take the knocks...*")

"Some **senior police-men link** the **growing number of crimes** with '**social deprivation**'..."

**"Improving the local area reduces** crime..."

**"... it will help youngsters by providing an alternative to crime..."** "... *it will deter crime...*"

**"Juvenile crime is now out of control..."** "The answer is to **lock up juvenile offenders**" (a decision made by the Home Office) (November 1992)

"... *it is everyone's responsibility...*"

("... **it will stop the killing...**")

## DO WE NEED MORE POLICE?

**PEOPLE SAID:** "See it for once from **our point of view.**" The government always say they will solve crime by spending **more (Tax-payers) money on more police.** "**More of 'THE OLD BILL' !?**"

The British Police also called: '**Coppers.**' ("Uh-oh. I'm going to cop it..." "**We've** copped it...")

"Our Boys in Blue" (who now incidentally wear **black** - symbolising 'the **bad** guys.')

**1983:** THE STATE **we** are '**living**' in: "The **people** have **the Right to demonstrate** and the police have to keep the peace... but...as we're talking about **public order offences...** I've seen the police breaking up a **peaceful protest** by **whipping** and driving their horses straight **at people!** Forcing their horses to trample right over the **injured people** lying on the ground, even innocent bystanders! The police rode off! Leaving **them** lying there, bleeding and unconscious..."

"I saw a police-man deliberately run his horse over

a girl, then go back over her body again! I know of another girl who was **smashed in the face with a truncheon**- she was wearing glasses... They also smashed her camera. This was at the **'Stop The City' demo** in London..."

1986: "Police are using **SNATCH SQUADS...** They wait for (**perfectly peaceful**, legal) **protestors** to go inside pubs... then **suddenly swoop**, taking the stragglers left on the street i.e. **young women-hitting** them, **pushing** them into their **'meat wagons'** (riot vans). 'Who was she?' 'She is only 13!' 'Why have they been taken?' 'Where have they been taken to?' 'We don't know!...' **That happens whenever the people protest against Fascism** i.e. 'The National Front' who **are allowed to march!** **They** are safely escorted by the police! **Strange that, don't you think?"**

**"I know I have the Right to remain silent... but... am I allowed to just say something?"**

1990: "There was a **leaked report** that said **the police** were found to be **violent, lacking control**- some officers **guilty of indiscriminate use of truncheons**. There were **many complaints about police behaviour**. No effective person was in control. Police did not follow the manual. They needed the strongest supervision. The use of horses had brought many complaints. The crowds were not warned. Warnings would have caused the crowds to disperse." **"Truncheons are only supposed to be used on arms and legs."** **"The police think it is a big stick to bash people over the head with!"** JOKE: "Yeh, save the police the trouble- beat yourself up."

**"The police always deny using EXCESSIVE FORCE."**

**"There's one good thing about the British police- they are not regularly armed with guns."** ("I don't doubt they'll find an excuse to change that soon.")

**"We are heading for a police State."**

**"There's nothing worse than when the olds get heavy. They come down on you like a ton of bricks."** "... 'You are nicked,' they say."

**"Let the police handle it? We are in a situation where most communities won't talk to the police..."** "It could be embarrassing for the police..." "Why are we constantly told to let the police handle it?" **"It's not their job!"** "The police say they'll handle it... but **nothing ever comes of it...**"

**"The police also say: 'They are not construction workers... They do not set the standards...'"** **"It's one of life's little mysteries."** **"Forget the planet, just do your job'..."**

**"It's a cop out..."**

**"... 'We'll get it sorted straightaway' say the police. 'Wait in a cell'...** (You can be held in a police cell for **4 days** before they have to charge you...) One day **they'll** be carting **me** off- **I'll** be a **mad dog** cos that's what **they** made me."

"They've done nothing to stop the type of crime

**residents** are really worried about..." "The police don't do anything!" "The police are never where you want them!" **"Where were you WHEN you were needed?"** "In the donut shop?" "It would help if the police were **fitter, not fatter.**" "The **Plod?** Where are all the police when **you need them?**" (Probably checking to see who hasn't paid the fines!) **"By the time** the police get involved it **can be too late.**"

"The police are here to **control 'the ignorant masses,' to protect the rich from those that haven't got anything.**" "One of their favourite saying is: 'If you can't **whip 'em, scare 'em'...**" (**"... it's a class thing..."**)

**"Citizens do not warm to their sledgehammer tactics."**

"... let us make this quite clear- **the police are not neutral** - they do not exist for **our** benefit- **although they sometimes appear to...**" "We do not deny that **individual** police officers might be nice- **the problem is they do as their superiors tell them-** because if they don't, they won't be in **power** for long..." "The police are **tools of the government...**"

**"The police should function in the interests of the community,** not **crazy politicians...**"

**"A parasite is a person who has decided there are the have's and have-nots and has decided to have by taking, by using force..."**

"Douglas Hog said, in 1990: **"When something goes wrong, that should be exposed, there should be prosecutions and independent enquiries..."** "Well, **don't forget to take ABUSES OF POWER**

**into consideration..."**

"Yeh. What about **going** after the **HIGH RANKING GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WHO ORGANISE CRIME AGAINST THE PEOPLE?**"

**"Crush the BRIBERY & CORRUPTION of politicians!"** EG. **Officials who Do Anything For Money.**" **"Wipe out The MISUSE of Public Money."** (**"Justice is Sweeter than revenge."**)

**"So disappointing the police are not taking action to protect the Public."**

**"1,600 police have died in the line of their duty to protect us..."**

**"JOKE":** "One black woman died, when police burst into her house- nobody charged. One policeman died- 160 charged, 350 arrested..."

**"... the load put on police cannot be justified..."**

"They say their job **is to keep the peace, to restore law and order,** but it's **one** law for **them,** and **another** for **us."**

**"WHY is it ALWAYS THE PUBLIC who SUFFER?"**

"The police don't **care** what happens to us!"

**"I** wanted to be a cop to **help folks** who couldn't help themselves..." "I didn't want to join the police. **I wanted to help the community in a different way-**



doing **social** work or *something* like that... We do a lot of work with the Homeless and drug addicts... that's a **service** the police do provide. Many of the police would prefer to do work like this. It offers so many good opportunities and it does have its challenges- like working with people who have murdered the Homeless. The Metropolitan police force really changes lives. You see **so much deprivation...**) ("Didn't you join to fight evil?") "**I'm WORRIED THINGS ARE GOING TO GET WORSE & WORSE IF NOTHING CHANGES.**" "**10,000 maniacs bothers me.**" "Our **Emergency services** are **our last line of defence...**" "We could end up with **ALL the old people too afraid to go out-** the kids roaming the streets **rule-** the police non-existent- **replaced by ROBOTIC MACHINES...** that **slay** the **rebellious children...** **Then where will we be? Up shit-street without a paddle...**" "... it's like **that now** for **the old folk...**" 1993: "Tis **fashionable** to be **bad.**" "... it caught on like a flash." ("Fashions **change** fast." "**If it's on, it's in.**") ("... it's up to **YOU.**") "**... it's all about supply** and demand..." **DEBATE:** "... most juvenile crime is against property and cars... **Victims want something done...** We have to look at **the causes- the feeling of alienation...**" "**Bring back borstal** training?" "... Give young people the chance to improve their self-esteem, help them improve **something...** **Most perceive they have no future...** have only known a **Conservative society, hence Crime.** Under **Conservatives, 17,000 more police!**" **CON:** "**The increase in crime is not the fault of any government!**" "Lock them away, **they** become **hardened** criminals. Steal **a bit** of money, **put away for years! Hurt or kill** someone, **get a few years! Where is the sense in that?!**" **CON:** "We're not going to get involved in the **politics** of sentencing now!" "**Young people** have **immense problems...** they **need** some **redirection** in their lives, to gain confidence, **some challenge, some adventure-trained** appropriately. **Many institutions are old-fashioned with old-fashioned values, not relevant to today's times...** it's about the facilities available to young people for leisure, advice, adventure- many don't have anywhere to go, or anything to do- the street corner is the only place. **Conservatives undermine that provision.**" "We need to make sure the young **do** participate in society. **Appalling government ignores the young, and denies them resources to improve their lives. The young need the opportunity to do GOOD. It's about** actually **sharing with them.**" "**Is it a political blunder? Could it unite people** (it: means: J. Major's *vision* of a 'classless' society), or just give the **opposition ammunition?** Surely it

gives society many benefits..." (Question Time, BBC1, 11/12/1993).

**"Teach kids how to save lives, not take lives."**

**Kenneth Clarke said:** "All of us in society have to look into the **heart** of society to find what weakens our social values."

"Persistent offenders... **madder** sentences... When do you start to re-educate and rehabilitate?"

**J. Major said:** "Society needs to condemn and understand a little less." (He's a real brick, isn't he?)

**"After all this time..."**

**CON:** "The system has to shake them, to stop them." "How to identify them so we can nip them in the bud?"

Insufficient debate. **Conservative government Bill put through quickly...**" (20/2/1993).

**FASHION = "... 'it' is a street cred thing..."**

**PEOPLE SAID:** "Crime? Whilst you're busy trying to work out who the **real** criminals are -**we** want to know how **far will it get to?**"

**News Reporter:** "There is a **malaise** that needs to be addressed."

**'EXPERT':** "It's a crime against people. There's nothing we are able to do about it... to stop the people who are breaking the law."

**"VIOLENT CRIMES SOAR:** ... has reached an all time, with more than **500 people attacked every day.** Shock new figures revealed muggings etc., have rocketed by 11% since last year. Rape, other sex crimes up 5% to 28,000 cases a year. Criminal damage now 12,000 cases a week... A **new 'Get Tough' policy** in the courts... Judges may be allowed more flexibility in deciding whether or not to treat an offender as a juvenile..."

"New wave of **petty crime stuns** police..."

**"... it would be more socially useful** than locking up petty offenders." "**Costs £1,500 a week** to keep a young offender in an institution."

The government's **Anti-crime slogan:** "Crime. Together we'll crack it." (*Oops! They need to get with it...*)

**PEOPLE SAID:** "**THE ANGER on the streets these days!**" "**The streets are going to be full of revenging mobs of hoodlums, smashing, stealing, raping and killing. Does anyone really have total security? Hell no.**" "**Something is eating us!**" "What's eating you?" "I **wish they** would get off **my** case and leave me alone. **It seems the government can make the people do anything they want- that's their power and this is how they use it against** people." "**I'm good and mad. I'm seething!**" "Only when the public's **anger** is vented will anything get done." "**We're going for the throat...**" "**I swear, I'm never going down that road...**" **WAH!** "All **I want is some FUN...**"

"It's not just in London. **Most people** in Liverpool **are totally disgusted...**" "Yeh, things are **much worse in the North...**" "Everyone's in a **coma.** I know it's **serious. Why don't they?**" "**I'm sick of**

politicians, and money." "Will we pull through?"  
"They've made a hell of a mess and now they're wondering how to get out of it..."

**GANG WARS: Kids with guns trying to be HARD, BAD... The obsession with knives... Knife gangs wanting to CUT YOU. So Freaky!**  
(Isn't there an obvious link here with all the CUTS made by politicians?)

**PEOPLE SAID:** "Don't politicians realise the repercussions their actions cause? Do they think administering a **policy of cuts** is doing good? Or *is there a hidden agenda* here i.e. social pruning? Are the governments schemers / **cold blooded killers?** This ought to be examined. Politicians should be made responsible..." "They're **murdering the children** to make sure *they don't inherit.*" "They're growing us like weeds in their back yards so they can pull 'em."

**JOKE:** "No stealing, the government doesn't like competition."

"Yes, **WE are at the heart and mind** stage." "Oh, *it could be so good for you...*"

"This system stinks- is evil, flawed..."

"Violence is creeping upon **us** like a plague..."

**Mrs Thatcher said:** "Violence is not political, it is **criminal... We have been working on how to keep down demand** in this country, **and supply...**" ("Mrs Thatcher could look **daggers** at anyone. **She was very cutting...**") ("That set the tone.")

"**The growing number of attacks against women!**" (Is there another link here?)

EG. "3 women were battered to death with a claw hammer..."

"How to curb violence against **women?**"

"Men! **They don't know the ½ of it!** All **they** can do is **hit out** about it! It's not their fault. They really don't mean it- not the way it comes out..." "**He can't help it...**" ?

"I'm sorry. **I just lost** it. I hit her. It wont happen again, I **promise...**" (*Face the lie-detector?*)

**EXPERT:** "**He wants power... over her Environment.** Don't let him get it..."

"**I make mistakes! I'm just a man...**"

"I really want to make things right. I didn't mean to do it. Oh! I'm so **crazy**, I'm **so lonely...**"

**EXPERT:** "Low self-esteem **feeds the cycle of violence.**"

"He's such a jerk. He's just **so stressed...**" "He beats me. It's been going on a long time. **I need your help.**"

"In just **one** UK county (Devon) **8,000 women** are subjected to **domestic violence each year**" (2004).

**Campaign to Stop Domestic Violence Slogan:** "Domestic Violence. Don't stand for it."

**THE NEED FOR SAFE REFUGE... Affordable, decent facilities...**

"Growing alarm- the high number of attacks against **children...**" (28/7/1993).

"**Elderly warned of a wave of crime...**"

"It should be a government responsibility to fund agencies **to help victims. The system should be more supportive** of victims of crime."

**UK: "80,000 racial attacks last year..."**

"... *the answer is not to attack each other but build a better society.* Don't try to have a centralised state who will do it for you" said Tony Blair (Labour).

"The **POLICE RALLIED IN PROTEST AT GOVERNMENT REFORMS:** ... due to the introduction of **performance related pay...** 'Our job is to **protect INNOCENT people'...**" (20/7/1993).

**PEOPLE SAID:** "I think you're **beautiful**, can't you **see the chemistry? I think it is really beautiful! Why don't we make a rainbow?**"

**CON:** "**The world has gone crazy!** I think we should **jail them** all and let them get on with it!"

"**Lord Justice Wolf, warned the Conservative government:** 'Do not cram more and more people into jail... *it is much better to tackle the underlying causes of crime'...*" (12/10/1993).

"Crime is not limited to inner cities. Suburb crime is rising by 25%... **Investment in crime prevention is very important...**" (3/11/1993).

"There **isn't a simple one-off solution to crime**" said the Police (Newsnight, 17/11/1993).

"We need a **quick way** to deal with **young offenders. Tough new community measures. It should seem like a punishment, not a holiday**" said the government. (**They're** so full of **understanding, aren't they?**) (**But then they** are not living behind **barbed wire...**)

"**CRIMINALS AGE 10 TO BE CAGED:** "The crackdown- **27 hard hitting measures with the aim of locking up more offenders...** 'Sin Bins' where young 'thugs' will be held if they commit a crime which carries a sentence of less than 14 years... **Ships and barges to be used as 'floating prisons'** to cope with **so many youngsters...**" (18/12/1993) ("**... it's a wipe-out...**")

1994: "The **punishments ignore** the cause of their bad behaviour- and will not solve crime."

"**Tony Blair believes** the rising crime rate is due to drug abuse."

"**CRIME STILL RISING:** We really are in dire straits. The police **can't cope. Something must really be done**" (20/2/1994).

"The Queen made a speech stating it is **not enough to deal with the symptoms of crime and not the cause**" (23/2/1994).

"A **sense of powerlessness is increasing** as the crime rate increases. **We just can't brush it aside. It is a security initiative**" (2/3/1994).

"Crime against property is dealt with **more severely than crime against the person!** That's wrong."

**PREDICTED:** "**LAWLESSNESS. Nothing** is compatible. **If the authorities can't help us, God**

**help us! A tidal wave of crime could engulf us all."**

"The Criminal Justice and Public Order Bill... will offer secure training centres... aimed at tackling the root causes of offending behaviour... 40 places to each centre... to turn persistent offenders into law-abiding citizens..." (1994) *How? "To get the job done you need the right tools... But where can you get it?" "Do the simple things right. That's what it's about, right?"*

**"DETAINING THE YOUNG:** "... the courts should be entitled to issue orders for 'secure training orders' that could be placed on **children**... who would then be **confined to a 'new' purpose-built detention centre...** putting delinquents under **the same roof** as children with emotional or behavioural problems is *not a successful solution...*" "... offenders will be electronically tagged..." (10/5/1994) (**Plastic** cuff **strapped** to their ankles).

**THEFT:** "Over **70%** of **all crime** concerns theft or allied offences" said a Judge (7/2/1990).

**Burglary: Smash a window...** climb in, climb over wall, climb up drain-pipe, climb over railings, thieves drilled through the wall...

**"We used to be able to just leave our doors open..."**

**PREVAILING ATTITUDE:** "There'll always be an England..." "Take what you want. **They're insured!**" "They've taken everything 'cept the wall paper!" Prized possessions- **people** worked hard to get, stolen to sell for a few £'s..."

"Domestic theft cost **£750 million**" (1992).

**UK:** "1.25 million break-ins every year." "**A break in happens once every 3 minutes.** 9 out of 10 cases go **unsolved.**" "The average burglar takes **1 minute** to enter, grab what they can and run."

**How to deter smash and grab?** (*Fit* audio equipment etc into **A Console...**)

"Burglary is the crime most people **worry** about" (1993) (*"It will give you peace of mind."*)

**Proposed new law:** You will be **finned** if you do not have an **alarm** in your property..."

"The **1,400,000 victims** of burglary should be glad to see it..." "They say 'robbery **victims never** get over it..."

#### **WHY DID YOU STEAL?:**

**"Did he have to turn to crime because he came from a broken home and saw no hope?"**

"I didn't have a happy childhood."

"I do crime to get **money.**" "It's a **cold** world out there- I started to get **frosty.**" "I couldn't get enough **money** to get anywhere to live." "I couldn't get a job." "I needed to steal to get the **money** so that I could live." "**There is no alternative.** I could not make enough **money.**" "**Lust and greed?**" "With prices so high the temptation is always there to steal...some of us give in to the urge, others don't." "Lack of self-discipline." "**No choice.** Got a wife and

baby to support." "Hey, when you've nothing to eat and no way of getting it, you'll do mostly anything to get what you want." "**Easy to rob. Hard to make a honest living.**" "**We can't Afford the basics** in life, never mind any luxuries." "Nothing ever came easy, so I figured... I just didn't expect to get caught. I know it aint right..." "**There's so much unfairness in the system.**" "I think its sad we have to stoop so low to get the things we want. Society says we have got to have things to be **normal.** **Crime** is the only way." "**Crime is the only alternative.**"

"I do crime because I want to feel alive, to have some *excitement-* a buzz..."

"Do I need a reason?" "Depravation?" "I steal what you are too weak to protect."

"Men who are hungry take." "We got hungry hearts."

"Life aint **easy.**" "Look. I'm **unemployed.** I've tried everything to get work. What do you expect me to do? Shift the flat to Canary Wharf?" "**Pressure.** Inability to cope." "Negative peer pressure."

**"You aint** treating **us** right." "Stop governments stealing! When they set a good example..." "Misguided youth?" "You've got to show us by treating us right." "**We're playing it's a knock off... Knock it off - steal it** from the hands of babies. **Same as you! Don't you get it?"**

"Attention seeking?" "It was **a cry for help?"**

"Lack of mothering?" "We don't nurture our young any more?"

**"STEALING** is stealing no matter why you do it."

**"Don't be a mug. BE HONEST."**

(*"It's the only thing to do."*)

#### **"A MURDEROUS TIME WE ARE HAVING...":**

**"696 murders** in the UK - a **low** figure compared to the rest of Europe" (1992).

**"A desperately violent system..."**

"Constant portrayal of **violence on TV...** if **violence portrayed as normal,** you will have a **more violent** society." "**Violent movies** etc., give people **bad** ideas."

**Existing System:** So much emphasis is placed on learning how to... **kill.**

**"So easy to kill..."**

**but so hard to get the BASICS to live!**

**ATTITUDE:** "Only **God** can Judge **me.**"

*"If only people could apply their minds to useful things, not devious things."*

"It doesn't really matter to me- I killed a man."

**"Cold blooded killers** - anyone who deliberately attacks and kills another **Human Being** is **SICK.** (*"No-one in their right mind would want to commit murder for the hell of it..."*)

**"They** should be locked away from the rest of society for **good...**" "**We** should **throw away the Key?**"

**Existing System:** **Killers** given a 'life' sentence... then released after a few years later back into unwitting society.

**PAROLE:** "I've changed my ways, I'll never do it again..." ("Yeh, right. We believe you?")

**Existing System = Expecting criminals to be honest!** "They tell them what they want to hear and they let them get away with it!"

"I told you lies and you fell for it!"

"When you tell lies someone gets hurt..."

"... eyes can't tell lies. Look in the eyes. They are mirrors, and they're free..."

"**LIE DETECTOR tests are easy to fool...**"

"**WATCH it CHANGE!**" (Should we use a non-harmful **truth serum**? EG. "... sodium amytal works on 95% of people..." To save people being held on remand, to make **sure the guilty are punished - not the innocent.** To **save** the court's time, to **save** public money and help **ensure the guilty are caught...** ? Would Hypnosis work?) (see: True Colours: page 647).

"**I WANT TO BREAK FREE FROM YOUR LIES! God knows...**"

"**It's a cruel, cruel world that treats you as guilty** till you are proven to be innocent..." "There is **nothing worse** than being accused of a crime you haven't done... **but this is compounded when you are wrongly imprisoned maybe for years...**" (Should we just speed the whole legal process, making it illegal to remand a prisoner for longer than a specified period?)

"... **it's EASIER THAN TORTURE...**"

("As bad as the truth may be. Tell it...")

"**Oh, my God. There are a lot of SICK 'people' on the streets...**"

"**I like killing.** The more **passive the victim, the more powerful I was...**"

**SERIAL KILLERS:** "... they are into bondage, torture, control..." "... cutting people for **pleasure...**" "... he was careful, well-planned, methodical, not sloppy... at war against **that social group... he enjoyed inflicting suffering** on his **victims...**" (That is **Evil**).

What did one serial killer say his 'logic' was?

"It's a lot easier to find a victim than a friend."

"**MONEY DE-HUMANISES PEOPLE.**" Some / Most / 90%? of people will do **anything for money.**"

"**The oldest crime is murdering for money.**"

There have been some really horrifying murders EG. battered with iron bar. Bashed with a brick. He was left on **railway lines.** **She** was **doused in petrol, set on fire...** **WHY DID YOU KILL?**

"What happens to the **SOFT** ones? **The vultures get them.**" "Only the fittest survive? Now you know that's wrong." "TO MAKE POLITICIANS **CRY!** So you **wont keep your systems, wont drop your bombs, to stop stealing governments, who don't care at all, who don't understand our songs...**" "You can give it but you can't take it" (it means: Aggression). "This is my protest. Get them to look down our way. Hey, **we're having a cut-throat, hell of a time here,** don't you know?"

"Millions of people all crammed in one place- hey, what did you expect?" "It's all, or **nothing?**"

"**Insecurity and loneliness** got the better of me."

"He got a few weeks behind with **the rent money...**

and snapped!" "No more **patience.** Who can I kill?"

"Could not control my emotions." "The battles raged

in my head- I couldn't make sense of them."

"Jealousy is a terrible thing." "Losers get angry."

"The **desperate...** can get **violent.**"

"**They've got many angles...**" "They can break a heart in a moment or two, and take a life-time to apologise."

## **GUILT:**

= "I must make amends..." "**I AM SORRY. SO SORRY.** What can I do?"

"... **it's** between you and your conscience. Is your conscience absolutely clear?"

"... **It's on my CONSCIENCE.**"

"If you don't believe you have a conscience, what trouble can **it** be to you?"

"I can't live with myself..." "Oh **God. I feel so bad.**

**Can't sleep. Nightmares, sweats, shakes...** I see **their faces, they're** coming back to **haunt me! I will never be myself again...**"

(COMMON BELIEF: "**Spirits** visit the sleeping for good purposes, or ill...")

"Guilt is one burden human beings can't bear alone.

One ½ of the self wants to atone, to be **freed** of the

**torments** of guilt, the other ½ wants to continue to be free... So only ½ calls out 'catch me' whilst the other ½ creates obstacles... **flirting with justice...**

**IF justice is nimble the clues will be there to follow...**" "Criminals always make **basic** mistakes..."

"**Why are there so many convicted criminals?**"

"**So many people are excluded from the system of things!** EG. By **silly nationality laws - statelessness** i.e. living in country you were born in for 30 years but still cannot get a passport! **This creates Terrorism.**" (see Chapter 12/ Finance / ID Cards).

"**Most 'criminals' are VICTIMS of the system. The system sucks. War, governments and poverty go together.**" "It's a warning, not a threat- **an investigation that must go on.**"

"I'm not ready for it yet." "**No, but you will be.**"

"**Crime goes up by 2% when the temperature goes up 1%.**"

Q: **Crime. WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?**

A: "It's **not** happening, man."

("When **it's understood by every boy, girl, man and woman, we'll have joy.**")

UK, 2004: Anti-crime slogan: "Crime. Let's bring it down."

"We have record numbers of police. To ensure more effective community policing- the public will have access to the mobile phone number of their community support officer" (8/11/2004).

"Electronic **tagging** has now been introduced..."

UK: "1 in 4 **school** pupils now carry a **weapon**. **KNIFE culture is now everywhere...**" (18/11/2004)  
Knives i.e. **blades, sharp as glass, metal to cut, stab, wound, shock, hurt, bleed** victims...

"**TASER** stun guns used by USA police have caused **74 deaths...** being introduced in the UK..."

"Are Labour's '**Get Tough**' policies really working to reduce 'anti-social' behaviour? **Tackling the symptoms not the cause. It's a politicians fix.** 'The **gangs** hanging around- we feel intimidated- **not safe anywhere.**' **1,000's of young people** now subjected to the **criminal process** which is **Draconian-** **many** are facing jail for disobeying orders even for minor offences such as spitting..."

How **Strange!** **To make the young civilised they are being sent to JAIL!"**

"In the **past you** could get away with **it. We are making it a civil offence...** To accelerate a police intelligence guided system... **This is to protect us from terrorism...**" said the Home Secretary (it means: Civil disobedience?) (the Home Secretary is blind...)

"Police going to be given greater **powers of arrest... The State is becoming more powerful...**"  
'We asked the police what they wanted and we gave them what they wanted.'  
'Yobs - more will get **on-the-spot fines...**' (20/11/2004).

"**627 police stations** front-line offices, to help the public have **closed.** Many people are volunteering their services in a bid to keep these open to **help the local community...**"

"We are lucky we have community policing..."

"There is evidence community support officers have had little effect..."

"**Community Support Officers** will be issued with telescopic i.e. **longer batons, handcuffs, CS gas...**"

"Police do **not** now need a reason to **arrest somebody...**"  
"Michael Howard, if elected, will remove the burden of police officers having to do paper work..." (24/11/2004).

**WORD ON THE STREET:** "Watch **your back!**"

"A man with a history of mental illness randomly stabbed 6 passers-by in the back... **360 stab related incidents** in London **every week...**" (23/12/2004).

"... the youth ran down the street shouting '**no-one loves me.**' He smashed a shop window..."

2005: "We are living in an increasingly **UNSAFE** society. **If they continue to fudge the issue...**" (12/1/2005).

"**THE PRAYER PATROL:** **Christians** are **trying** to get criminals to **change** their ways. Christians armed with just a Bible, a mobile (phone) and a prayer are tackling the threat posed by gangs with guns. In Bristol, a 60% reduction in crime- due to the police and the mild mannered Christians. **It is a**

**community initiative** welcomed by the police. Sounds strange, but the idea is spreading" (Channel 5, 8/4/2005).

"The police are **reeling with the number of murders and they can't cope**" (Nottingham, March 2005).

**A VICTIM OF MUGGING SAID:** "I just feel those who do such appalling violence should pay for it..."

**ADVERT FOR CRIME STOPPERS:** "**Help us fill in the gaps...**" (April 2005).

"People are being mugged more and more- in main streets, not only back alley-ways. The attacks of jewellery shops..." **M. Howard said:** "I don't believe there is nothing we can do about it" (18/4/2005).

re: "What type of **community** policing do rural areas want?" **A police spokesman said:** "It shouldn't be a talking-shop. **It will** enable us to **clamp down on rowdiness caused by alcohol.**" "**If there is something that could be done to make people feel safer, people need to talk to us about it. If we find there are any real issues, we will tackle it.**"

"Nothing gets done about it because **the old boys** (the sharks) are **more powerful** than the police."

"11,000 criminals are electronically tagged to reduce the prison population- largest number in Europe. **Numbers will double by 2008. TAGGING does not work...** Tags can be taken off. Not monitored. Lack of staff. Lack of **expensive** equipment. **So how is this going to stop crime?** Curfews breached. **¾ are re-convicted** within 1<sup>st</sup> year (Home Office figure). **Tagging is a multi-£million (private) business. They are making a lot of money out of a system that is useless.** These murders would have been avoided if they had been taken to court for breaches. '**He does stupid things on the outside.**' Surprisingly, all police forces agree with tagging..." (Real Story, BBC1, 25/4/2005).

"**6 million crimes last year.** Under Labour government, 140,000 police (up 13,000) + 4,600 Community Support Officers. **A considerable cost.** Each police officer has a starting salary of £20,000..." (29/4/2005).

"**THE HARD LINE: STEEL HOMES:** Yob **families** should be **kicked out of council estates and sent to live in vandal-proof steel containers**, senior MP's demanded... Labour's Frank Field believes ministers should **copy** a radical Dutch **scheme** in which yobs are already living in customised **container homes**. Each home in Kamper, East Holland, has **3 basic bedrooms, a kitchen, a bathroom, and is supplied with heating, gas, elec & hot water.** The Dutch scheme was **hailed a success and is to be extended nationwide.** Mr Fields said: 'They can be put **under the motorway flyover...** **We need to be doubly serious about this issue because we are further down the road to anarchy.**' Campaigners say the container homes

are needed to stop anti-social offenders, who may have drug or alcohol problems, ending up on the streets. **A Dutch Conservative MP said: 'The trouble may not be solved instantly but will be relocated to where we can keep an eye on it'...**" (Daily Mirror, 21/6/2005) (see: Page 146).

**"CRACKDOWN ON YOBS:** To beat anti-social behaviour, courts can use ASBO's (called Isos's) (individual support orders) to make louts aged 10 - 17 get treatment for alcohol and drug addiction, and **direct young people towards activities** which deal with the underlying cause/s of their behaviour - this can include **anger management** courses. **The government wants** a huge increase in ASBO's. But there is growing **concern** that 42% of ASBO's are breached, and critics say the punishments are "a badge of honour" for the thugs. There have also been **complaints** that **ASBO's merely move the problem on, and are criminalising children** without changing their behaviour" (Daily Mirror, 26/7/2005).

"Tony Blair **blamed 'bad parents'** for **'the rising tide in lawlessness'**..." "The Daily Mirror believes **something really fundamental is needed** if anything **significant is going to be achieved** against the yobs, thugs and killers" "The Home Secretary said he wont be going **soft** on thugs..." (Daily Mirror, 2/9/2005).

**"WE'VE LOST OUR BATTLE AGAINST LOUTS"** admits Tony Blair..." (Daily Mail, 3/9/2005).

**"Police totally shocked by the high number of stabbings"** (New Year's eve, 2005).

**DEBATE:** "The government's 'new' action plan to tackle anti-social behaviour = **Youths can now be taken to court.** Police have more powers- **Dispersal Orders.** But **where do we disperse the kids to? The answer is more Youth Clubs? What is the money raised by alcohol sales spent on? When kids go off the rails, what can a parent do?"** (Newsnight, BBC2, 10/1/2006).

"They are keeping a data bank of **children's DNA...** even though these children were detained but never charged... The **ethics** and **implications** of the police **keeping a record of our DNA...**"

**"DESIGNING OUT CRIME:** ...for **community safety... public** access should be **restricted** to as few routes as possible... Good lighting will deter intruders... areas should be open to view and well lit... **fencing** should not provide climbing aids... priority should be given to the provision of an alarm. These are just some of the issues... of **working in partnership... Good design with safety and security in mind** need not cost more particularly when considered from the offset. **Poor design exacerbates the situation** caused by economic factors..." (Local council leaflet 2006).

**"We need progressive leaders** who can take the bull by the horns. **It exists!** It's no good saying it doesn't exist!" (re: crime in Manchester 7/8/2006).

"Should shop **lifters** be sent to prison?"

**"ARE WE HEADING FOR A POLICE STATE?** New UK laws: Police can now stop & question anyone even if they don't suspect a crime. If you refuse to answer, arrested..." (May 2007).

#### **PRISON:**

**"Society has the Right to be protected** from the most violent criminals." **"Hard** men."

"The idea of prison is keep anti-social, **violent** people from normal society..."

**"LET ME OUT! I DIDN'T DO it!"**

"Why am I being sent here?" "To serve your **debt** to society."

"Detained at Her Majesty's pleasure..." ("The Queen of all that is **cruel.**")

"Britain has the highest number of people serving 'life sentences' in Europe- maybe the world."

**"Everyone in society is responsible** for what happens in **state-run** institutions..." "What **goes on** in **these** places, is done with **your permission...**"

**"The General public do not understand. They don't care" ? "What sort of a society ignores the plight of fellow Human Beings?"**

(Everyone has to look after their own needs first. Then the needs of their family. Then the needs of their community. Then the needs of whole world. Many people are so caught up in just trying to survive, they don't have the time to get involved in important things such as reform of prisons).

**"What happens in these places, could, one day, be done to YOU!"** "You could be sent **here** on remand, whilst **awaiting** a trial."

**POLITICAL DOGMA / STRIFE:** "Courts seem to have set a new precedent for **anyone who voices dissent: Imprisonment and psychiatric assessment...** even for defacing a poster, with words such as: **'BLOOD MONEY.'** Even 12 year old children are being locked up in Britain's toughest jails for allegedly stealing a purse..." (April 1990).

**"PRISONS USED TO HOUSE FAILURES..."**

"A hostile shop owner said he saw my blanket move. I was arrested- charged with indecent exposure!"

"How does locking **me** up **at the Tax-payers expense...** repay my debt? But I'm not complaining! **Rent-FREE accommodation.** At last! **What I couldn't find on the outside...** 3 square meals a day..." "The **lure** of regular meals and lodgings..."

**THE HOMELESS DO NOT BELONG IN PRISON!**

**"Categorising the Homeless as 'dangerous loonies'** and **demanding they be removed from sight to a cell** is more about the comfort of passers-by (and politicians) **than meeting the real needs of the Homeless"** (20/10/1992).

"Whilst I'm in here, I can't pay my mortgage. **They're turning out** my kids..."

"You've been charged with vagrancy, trying to escape custody. **You're in moral danger...**" Uh?

**"Banged to rights" "... in the slammer."**

**Bedlam:** means: "An archaic madhouse."

 **SMALL TIMERS:** "Petty offenders often locked in with **depraved** criminals..."

"In prison, you're only a number..."

"Britain does not seem such an attractive place when viewed from a cell in Wormwood Scrubs prison..."

**CELL SIZE:** "Hold out both hands, can touch the walls..." "In Victorian times, one man to a cell..."

**1990:** "Now 3 men **locked in this concrete cell**, with **no toilet!** "I can't even go to the toilet without anyone watching me!"

**"LOCKED IN CELL 24 HOURS A DAY:** ... the **poor** standards of **care**... prisoners are supposed to be let out to exercise in the yard. Now too many are locked-in 24 hours a day..." "... **not** even allowed to change underpants or shower **once a week!**"

"You **can't escape the smell** of the buckets in the cells. We have to eat in here... (airborne bacteria) 3 people, all feeling desperate... locked in this tiny tank." "**Conditions are inhumane**... the corridors overcome by the pungent smell of urine and faeces. More often than not, the few toilets are blocked... There is **little hygiene**..." "(Ah! You want a **quiet** lad who can take all the shit...)"

"The level of medical care is a legitimate concern..."

**"YEARS OF DOGMA AND NEGLECT..."**

"In the **dirty, dark, damp** prisons..." "The **DIRT** everywhere! **DAMP, DISINTEGRATION.**

**DISREPAIR...**" "**A FESTERING SORE:** "The walls are **crumbling** and covered in fungi... **This** surely must be a breach of every **health and safety** standard?" "The **conditions drag us back** into the **ages of barbarism**..." "Prisons **over-run with cockroaches, mice and rats. This is a disgusting HELL house.**"

"The Home Office say they spend a lot of money- but there is no evidence to show the money has been **well** spent." (**WHERE DID ALL THE MONEY GO?**)

"**Boredom is the greatest evil** in this place." "Starved of stimulation..." "Prison pallor."

"A **useless** life is an **early death**" (said Goethe)

"The **warder** will like me and I'll get a good record and be out of here..."

"It don't play that way. The other inmates are **mean**..."

**"NO ALARM BELLS** in cells. Be **victimised, bashed, threatened...** **Assaulted** by other inmates, or the screws. What goes on behind **these walls** and iron bars..." (**Sadism and Masochism**).

"... there should be **better protection** from **bullies**..." "They can come into your cell any time they like, do **anything they like**..." "Screws (wardens) **turn a blind eye**." "They **enjoy** watching **us** squirm." "The **bent screws are the worse**..." "They **want us** to suck up to **bent screws!**" ("It's a point of pride.")

"**Doing nothing increases violence**..."

"Our only 'solution' is a brawl- **jokey alternatives**..." EG. "Pretty boy watch your back." "Bugger it..."

**"Bugger, bugger, bugger..."**

**SODOMY:** "**RAPE** is a common occurrence."

"... deprived of more than their liberty..."

("There's **nothing** new about **this** sort of thing.")

**"You can't tell anyone."** "**We** don't like informers."

"You **grassed** me up!" (**Back** to Sod's Law). "By telling them you'll be sucking up to **the big wigs**."

("No, that's not it...") "**You going to drop me in it?**" (it means: Deep shit / trouble). "**Don't** even think of it" (a **threat**).

"... taken into 'Protective' custody..."

**"Pain is used to control** prisoners." "...bounced down the iron stair-well..." = "...he fell down the stairs..."

**PRISON OFFICERS SAID:** "The **daily grind**." "My approach is **like steel**. It's my job to see that you do it. **No slacking**..." "... it's not going to look good on your record..." "Don't you dare damage government property!" "*It's simply not done, is it?*" "We're just **mugs** doing the government's **dirty** work. We're not allowed to talk about anything that happens in here." "Our image is **bad**." "Take it out on **em**."

"The **load** on us cannot be justified..."

"Decorated with an **Imperial** medal for long service..."

"Hard day?" "Yeah, **aren't they all?**"

"A judge described the prison as a '**depressing, corrupting institution**; with '**very poor**' **educational facilities**."

"There's **no place like home**, and **this is no place like home**."

"... **Riots** due to **poor** food..."

**UK:** At **STRANGWAYS** prison, in Manchester: "The **most violent prison riot in history**... 'an unstable, very dangerous and volatile situation'... 'a **social time bomb**'... 'prisoner set against prisoner'... the Conservative government's **brutality**'... '**prisoners may burn the prison down**...'... **640 men on the loose** ...'fear of a mass break-out' ... roof top protestors defied authorities for 25 days'... **SAS called in**..."



THE SOLUTION: Here in Amsterdam, we **try**

**to do it in a human way**. It's not an easy way of life but it's not too bad here compared with other countries. **SPECIALLY DESIGNED MODERN**

**ACCOMODATION: Each unit is self-contained.** (Other) Schemes abandoned as being too big. The **small** size means it isn't a problem containing prisoners. Scheme must be successful- blocks are **empty**. There is a shop, so prisoners can stock up..."

**MEANTIME, BACK IN 'THE LAND OF MOPE':**

"... it's **meaningless**..."

"Other riots... **hostage** taken... more than **£4 million damage**... prisoners **set fire to cell**

block..."

CON: "There's no way to prevent a riot..."

"More money spent on riot equipment... £56 million on rebuilding... speeded up to restore back to former state... 'We're trying to add to the number of places available' at Strangeways prison..."

"Prisoners letters censored so no details get into the newspaper." "The system doesn't like bad publicity." "I wish the media would come and witness the inhumanity."

"... Riots did not lead to any radical thinking..." "Rioters charged with murder..."

"SO SAD: The government failed to learn any lesson. The situation is as bad as it ever was."

"... the regime remains very basic... monotonous... mechanical routines..."

"They give you massive doses of SOLITARY confinement..." "... not allowing inmates to associate with each other is 'totally unacceptable'... the report called for urgent changes, including a visitors centre and a sports hall..."

"Physically repressive, psychologically depressing. What is the aim of prison? God, this is an awful place!"

("I know it's something you've got to do...")

"THERE IS NO REHABILITATION- that's a myth."

"Prisons don't help people."

ANCIENT LOGIC: "Never release your prisoner with a lion's heart."

"They only put you on the streets again."

Ah! "The need for post-release support is essential."

"90% of inmates are re-offenders."

"I need a proper place when I'm released so I won't get into any more trouble."

"May I please go to a ½ -way house?" "No such thing any more, mate, sorry!" ("A ½ way house isn't a patch on going all the way...")

"Nobody ever got anything good from being in prison." "People do sometimes change." "When I get out I'll go clean and I won't be hard anymore."

"ARRESTED DEVELOPMENT: Prisons have well-stocked workshops but prisoners are idle" (report, 16/11/1992). Workshops = Metal work.

"They've sold off the one thing that REALLY helped us - the (prison) farms. Looking after gardens and livestock helps - it was a fulfilling activity, a healthy, useful occupation... it gave us something to look forward to..."

"... There are very clear advantages to be gained from it. I hope the Home Secretary takes notice of it" said a spokesperson for the police (23/3/1993).

"Constantly moving you around, to disorientate... You could be moved 250 miles away from the only person you know in the whole world..."

All done to break the individual and remove your identity - to destroy man's humanity. The system brutalises desperate people..."

"We're professionals... but we don't know what the answer is... There is nothing else we can do. There is no solution..."

"Families distressed and living in limbo..."

"RIOT IN MAXIMUM SECURITY: 73 prisoners on rampage for 24 hours due to visitors (allowed visits only once a month) being strip searched (for drugs). Extensive damage" (8/7/1993).

"CONSERVATIVES HARD LABOUR PLAN: ...to make jails tougher and more productive... prisoners would work doing hard labour in prison factories run by private firms... their wages to compensate victims and pay Board and Lodgings for their cells... A more austere regime... Will not be allowed to spend wages... 'We should make life as uncomfortable as possible in jail' said Conservative MP J. Carlisle. 'Prison is not a holiday camp... We need more Victorian values and less 1960's softness'... 'The Howard League' warned of riots and suicides..." (23/8/1993).

"THE NEED TO REDUCE OVER-CROWDING IN PRISONS: ...the release of petty offenders will not take place" (September, 1993).

"A RAPIDLY RISING PRISON POPULATION: 1960: 20,000 prisoners. 1980: 50,000 (40% are awaiting a trial). Jan 1990: 90,000 excluding 62,800 prisoners on remand."

"Prison officers are again threatening to strike due to OVER-CROWDING in prisons. 'We cannot stand idly by... We would like to see relations restored back to normal again.' Government once again, in opposition to the unions..." (17/11/1993).

"Government re-introducing old mutiny laws..." "2 moth-balled prisons are being re-opened due to CHRONIC over-crowding..."

"IN THE DARK: Commercialising management of 10 prisons without adequate assessment... Doubts conditions will be improved, or make prisons effective. Can the service succeed without it?" (30/8/1993).

"WARNING: There will be chaos in prisons if over-crowding continues... Prisons bursting at the seams... What do YOU think? Should we build more prisons to punish people, or is there some other way?"

PEOPLE SAID: "To avoid tragedy, tailor resources towards helping and affecting the correct kind of change..." "Teenagers should not be in adult prisons!"

"THE HIGH RATE OF ATTEMPTED / SUICIDES: DYING INSIDE: The plight of Teenagers in prison... self injury, easily intimidated... Concern over number of suicides..."

"I can't wait to get out of this prison cell." "Please get me out of here!" "This place is HELL on Earth." "I can't go through with it!"

"The screws said I would only get out of here in a body bag." "Put in solitary, couldn't take it, and killed himself after 10 days..." "2 remand prisoners

both 19, found hanged by sheets..." "... he hanged himself in an observation cell..."

"He was just a young boy, DREAMING of that New World..."

"Victims of the gutter. Victims of your cold bloodied ways..."

"Teenagers need Affordable housing!" "These kids need a loving home to be in..."

"The mentally-ill, alcoholics and drug addicts should not be held in prison awaiting trial!"

"Official Estimate: 1 in 5 people in prison is mentally ill."

"Take the blues away" Does Not Mean: Lock 'em all away!"

"200 suicides! Many are remand prisoners. Recommended: More bail hostels. More hostels for the Homeless" (18/10/1993).

"ASYLUM SEEKERS IN PRISON: The use of restraint in prisons has led to unlawful killing" (27/7/1993).

"Prisoners should be allowed one shower a week. Still sloping out... Health facilities criticised" (24/3/1994).

PRIVATE JAILS USING FORCED LABOUR: ... the government's prison privatisation plan has been dealt a (merciful) blow... 'The International Labour Organisation' has warned that employment of inmates without their consent is a breach of International Convention... specifically banning prisoners from working- even if the labour is for public works..." (3/5/1994) (That's a missed opportunity. Prisoners could, on a voluntary basis, be usefully, safely and happily? employed making pre-fab housing in workshops to earn their keep and help the people who are homeless...)

"CONDITIONS MUST IMPROVE: ... We are a dustbin for all the problems in the outside world..."

"We urgently need new things. Large institutions don't work. Replace, with smaller units. The smaller the better. Manageable units. We could make a good job of it. This place is too large- places like this gobble up resources we can't Afford. I'd be horrified if they should build places like this again" said the Governor re: Feltham prison" (10/12/1993).

"GOVERNMENT PLAN TO BUILD MORE PRISONS: Up to £500 million of private money is being demanded by the Home Office to build and operate 6 new prisons... finance houses, commercial and investment Banks are linking up with construction firms to bid for the prison business" (20/5/1994).

"The Home Office said: "Everything seems to be under control." (Ah! That phrase again. Don't worry, it's all under control...)

"5 dangerous prisoners escaped" (25/5/1993).

"326 prisoners have escaped in the last 10 months" (3/11/1993).

"5 prisoners charged with the Strangeways riot have

escaped by easily breaking through a plaster-board ceiling in a toilet whilst at court... were supposed to be in maximum security" (17/2/1993).

"JAIL BLAZE BREAK-OUT FOILED: A fire swept through one wing of a jail... police surrounded the prison walls to stop inmates attempting to get away and put the public at risk... 90 prisoners evacuated... police treating fire as arson. Estimated damage £250,000 to the building" (9/12/1993) (Situation flammable...)

"The escape of an extremely dangerous killer... Very dangerous criminals were being transported by coach- type used for school outings (!) We Need A Review of Security..." (12/2/1994).

"The public are warned not to approach 3 dangerous men who are on the run- they escaped from Dartmoor, by making a hole in the roof..." (15/4/1994).

HIGH COSTS: "The staggering cost of a cell in British police stations is up to £2,000 for a single night! The Public Accounts Committee criticised the Home Office for paying such extravagant bills. The average cost for housing prisoners was £234 a night. (This compares with £130 for a room in the Savoy Hotel or £160 for a night at the Ritz). £234 represents the 'economy' end of the scale! In more than 27 cases, housing costs more than £500 a night! In one police station the cost to provide one meal is £18..." (1/7/1993).

"We'd be out of a job if we did our job better..."

1993: PEOPLE SAID: "They're all profiting out of the situation... the police, the lawyers, the judges, the warders, the social workers, the psychiatrists... they have a vested business interest in having prisoners..." "These people... are your possessions huh?" "There's nowhere for them to go? There is no alternative accommodation so you have to lock up all these people 'to protect society'?" "Punishment is all you can do. We are glad your rotten system is coming down." "It's happening rather quickly, isn't it? Prisoners breaking out, rather than being released? Trouble is, it's the violent element who will escape..."

"The Young Offenders Reform Trust said prison blocks should be made into a museum- cells are falling apart. Should be brought up to scratch. Cost: £15 million to upgrade one block. The young need the support of their families..." (30/11/2004).

"1,000's of early-release prisoners (40%) are being sent back to jail after being caught re-offending" (The Times, 25/5/2005).

"CHAIN GANGS of prisoners WILL DO FORCED LABOUR to build places such as the Olympic Stadium in Canary Wharf, to repay the community... the Home Secretary said he wanted a massive expansion in the number of offenders forced to work in the community rather than go to jail... shadow Home Secretary, Conservative, David Davies said the plans will do nothing to stop 'the

**massive problem' of violent crime**" (10/2/2006).

**"OVER-CROWDING:** Britain's prisons are at breaking point... The Conservatives want to build **more prisons...**" (October 2006).

### **"WOMEN IN PRISON:**

"... she shouldn't be in here! **She doesn't deserve to be punished!**" "If we can convince the court **your home** situation has **improved...** You are not a criminal! **You are a victim....**"

"... separated from their children- for drug offences, **sentenced to 25 years - life imprisonment...**"

"... They take our babies away from us when they are a year old... so hard on us..."

"... choked anger... low esteem..." "... there are plenty of mothers in here who wouldn't dream of harming their children!"

**"There are a lot of children in here!"**

"... a woman in agony, miscarrying, writhing about in the cell- no-one to sit with her..."

**"... children** during visits **screaming:** 'Go away!' at warders..." "... Sometimes I forget I have a mother..."

"... warders voted to take industrial (strike) **action** to stop inmates from Strangeways prison (for **men**) being moved to the women's prison..."

"... **the women's prisons are all jam-packed-** 1350 inmates in one prison built to house 900 people..."

**"... the women rioted** following a fight..."

**WARDERS SAID:** "You prisoners are all the same." "How the hell can we **stop** it?" (it **means:** a crime?) "If you don't do it..." (i.e. stop the crime?) "We've got to know who is doing it and get them out of here." *Uh?* "We don't help people very much. Prisons should be more **health orientated** - many are psychiatric cases..." "It's how it should be done - say 'no' to them, it can't be done. They're not allowing it... It goes above me! Its bigger and better than you..." "Are you upset about going to court, is that what it is? Come on, talk to me. I'm paid to listen."

**WOMEN SAID:** **"We** are like battery hens." "All we've got is **4 walls...** all we can do is dwell on it..."

**"The authorities think they are God..."** "The **screws are on one side, we are on the other side.**" "You **can't** put your finger on it - you can't do fuck-all about it..."

**"... they've cancelled it! No notice!"** (it means: a social event).

"... some women prisoners **throw themselves around their cells and have died as a consequence...** **self-mutilation, depression, drugs, wailing, crying, shouting, suicide-** 36 unsuccessful, horrendous attempts in Holloway last year... all caused by being inside a locked building..." **"Stress levels so high.** We can't get away from it..." (3/11/1992).

"Britain's largest women's prison is still **suffering**

from **'fundamental problems'** said the Chief Inspector of Prisons – nearly a **decade** after her predecessor walked out after discovering **appalling conditions.** Unacceptable low standards of cleanliness, serious infestations of mice, pigeons and insects... The jail was also criticised for failing to meet a principal recommendation that (**young**) girls should no longer be kept at Holloway (women's) prison" (2005).

### **COURT ROOMS:**



(Tons of **bricks, loads of wood...**) "To make courts less intimidating for witnesses... cameras installed" (UK, December, 2004).

"Swear on the Bible..." **Uh?**

"People with a history of mental illness are not allowed to testify in court..."

"... the law takes a very dim view of it..."

**"Fraud is a crime."** **"FRAUD CONVICTIONS =** You must have a water-tight case." **"All they have to do is deny it..."**

"The law is a **noble** thing. **It must not** be brought into disrepute..."

**"FULL INQUIRY:** We should leave it to Lord Justice Woolf to hold a full inquiry... His report could effect **life into the 21st Century...** He may **hit a wall of silence...**" ("Where there's a legal will, there's a way.")

**"What will** Lord Chief Justice Woolf **make of it all?"** ("How doth the little crocodile improve his shiny tail?") **The lambs were silenced.**

**"Concealed unhappiness, carefully averted eyes, cold smiles..."** **"... it's a travesty of justice..."** "How can you believe in justice when *it* doesn't exist?"

"Nearly **32 million crimes** are committed in England and Wales **every year,** according to the official **Victimisation** Survey. That is **87,000 crimes a day- or one every second**" (29/7/2005).

**"GRIEF HAS GALVANISED THE WHOLE COMMUNITY:** The depth of emotion... The shock. People laying flowers..." (re: the **AXE** murder in London of Anthony Walker, the teenager who wanted to be a lawyer, 2/8/2005).

("... *it is the jury who will decide...I rest my case until the decision of the jury is spoken...*")

**"The jury is out?"**

### **THE FUTURE?**

**"More fascist crap** - an **implant** sewn under your skin so **authorities can track** where **every** person is?"

**"WILL WE EVER GET BEYOND THE NEVER-ENDING CYCLE OF CRIME AND PUNISHMENT?"**

("Love over gold. *It's no mystery to me...Things will change... one day...*")