

alternatives to imprisonment.

N. F. HILLS - Consultant Psychiatrist.

Refs. (1) R.V. McGowan, Criminal Law Review, Feb. 1975 p.113

(2) See, for instance, Jeff Smith "The Community Service Order" in L. Blom-Cooper (Ed.) "Progress in Penal Reform" Clarendon Press 1974.

PRISON FOR ME!

Well, there I was then, out of work and broke. Hot as hell it was and with my thirst I needed a couple of pints. I got to yarning with this bloke in the pub and when I thought the time was right I put the word on him for a couple of quid. Well the sod turned nasty and before I could blink I was up in court before the judge.

"Jack Hobson" says the judge, "you've been to prison before. This time I give you a chance. We have just got a law allowing for me to sentence you to a Community Service Order. Would you like a Community Service Order or Prison?"

Well I'd never heard of this community thing but I suppose it couldn't be worse than prison.

"If I take this community thing will I go to prison?"

"No." said the judge.

"Right!" I said. "I'll take it "

That was my mistake. You'd think there would be nothing worse than prison; but there is! I'll explain. My "service order" said that five times a week for the next couple of months I would appear at the local cemetery to help clean the grounds. So, off I went. When I arrived at the cemetery you know who I worked with? Two of me old mates doing time in the local gaol.

"What are you doing Jack?" they said.

"Judge gave me a choice," I said proudly. "Prison or Community Service. I chose community service."

"You always were the mug, Jack." they said. "There you are doing the same work as us here at the cemetery, and what do you get? We get three meals a day, a bed, clothing, transport, movies at the weekend, and a bit of spending money on the side. Well, what do you get Jack?"

They had me there. No meals, no bed, no transport, and certainly no spending money. I reckon I'd been conned by that Judge.

Next time, its prison for me!

VICTIMOLOGY

AN ACCOUNT AND A CRITIQUE

by Ian Taylor (Centre for Criminological Studies, University of Sheffield)

The resurgence of interest within criminology in the role of victims in 'precipitating' crime - in 'victimology' - is prompted by at least three wider developments. Firstly, the increase in crime-rates, especially in the United States, and most markedly in the case of some crimes against the person ('mugging', and, more recently, kidnapping), has come to affect directly the interests, and the pockets, of relatively powerful middle class groups. Taking advantage of a moral climate attuned to the idea of war against crime, these groups have fought successfully for the establishment of systems of reparation of victims - in Britain, the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board - which at present involve compensation from State funds, but which may come to encompass direct compensation of victims by those adjudged to be the aggressor(s).

Secondly, in a more subtle way, the stress on the role that victims play in precipitating crime can be seen to result from the increasing influence of social work and psychiatry in the processing and disposition of apprehended delinquents and criminals. In the attempt to define a delinquent boy found guilty of a sexual assault, for example, as 'a suitable case for treatment' (and psychoanalysis), the social work wisdom will stress the ways in which adolescent girls may have played upon a boy's already unstable emotions. The aggressor is not entirely to be blamed - but he is to be helped to resist, with greater matur-