

outside a low-income housing project, the 250th victim in New Orleans thus far in 1990.

EDWARDS: No doubt about it, the status of the victim determines the hue and cry for retribution, crime, and punishment.

PREJEAN: Here's something I wonder about. In the 1930's, during the Depression, executions were at an all-time high - 167 per year. These too are hard times economically for many people and once again we have a cry for executions. Is there a connection, do you think, between economic struggle and crime?

EDWARDS: It's not very hard to see that people without jobs, unable to support their families, resort to crime. And I've always said that an integral part of the drug culture is the lack of educational opportunities and a lack of employment opportunities. A guy sets out to burglarize a convenience store and has no intention of killing anybody but in the process the manager reaches under the counter for a gun and gunfire ensues and boom.

PREJEAN: What would a real anti-crime program look like?

EDWARDS: First of all a real anti-crime program is not instant, it will take years to develop and to see the results. It would have to include, among other things, more attention to young people who are in single-parent homes and who are not watched and don't have the benefit of parental guidance. We would have to provide for a larger educational program to prevent young people from starting on drugs so that later on they don't turn to crime