

to support a drug habit. We will also have to involve ourselves in long-range economic opportunity. You take a young man who goes through high school and college and gets a job to support himself and his family in a decent way and can live outside of a slum or a housing project, he's going to be more apt to follow the straight and narrow and do the right thing and be law abiding.

I also am of the opinion that we are missing the boat by the long delays between the commission of the crime and the trial. There are countries in Europe and other parts of the world that try people within six weeks of the crime. I have been told and read that, somehow, many people who have committed crime and are not tried until a few years later end up convincing themselves that they are not guilty and feel put upon by the judicial system. Whereas, if you try them soon afterwards while the sense of guilt is still with them, you are more apt to get a contrite person who will rehabilitate himself if given the opportunity.

PREJEAN: Another part of this picture that I came to see when I lived in the St. Thomas housing project in New Orleans is the sub economy that drugs are. Since the late 60's drug deals have been a very open thing in St. Thomas. And city officials and law enforcement people obviously have not seemed to care. But there's a whole economy around the production, buying, and selling of drugs.