

## SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

When Roy Hattersley spoke at the ISTD AGM less than a month before the seismic shift in the Tory party which culminated in the resignation of Margaret Thatcher, I couldn't help noticing that he appeared to move beyond rhetoric when he referred to the next Labour government and spoke of his party's rise to power as if he thought that it really could happen. The outcome of the next general election is anybody's guess but Roy Hattersley, MP for Sparkbrooke, Birmingham since 1964 and deputy leader since 1983, was quite clear of the Labour Party's plans for criminal justice.

The Labour party would establish a sentencing council to monitor the courts and sentencing practices with an eye to the struggle which would almost inevitably flow from such an initiative, he said (as was reported in the Times on 30th October) 'we must not let the judicial vested interests stand in the way of essential reform'. There would also be checks on how women and ethnic minorities are dealt with by the criminal justice system and more petty criminals would serve their sentences in the community, the money saved by reducing the prison population being spent on increasing the number of police officers.

With recent enthusiasm for various crime prevention strategies, few would argue with his first priority of cutting the number of crimes committed; catching and convicting criminals comes a close second. Similarly the Labour Party is unlikely to meet much resistance in its wish to focus greater attention on the position on victims who have long since progressed from being flavour of the month to being flavour of the decade;



*Roy Hattersley speaking at the ISTD A.G.M.*

victims are, as it were, here to stay. He called for more information for victims at all stages of the criminal justice process, for better communication between victims and official bodies such as the Parole Board, and in particular for more ready access to compensation through the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board and the courts as well. 'When appropriate and possible' he added 'offenders should make reparation.....to the victim or the community.'

More controversially in referring to the Guildford Four and Birmingham Six cases he proposed a new system for dealing with prima face cases of miscarriages of justice — confessions would be deemed inadmissible unless corroborated, the right of silence would be maintained and an independent review body would be created to investigate suspected miscarriages of justice.

Members will remember that in 1987 the **Rt. Hon. Douglas Hurd** addressed the Institute's AGM. On that occasion as

well as speaking of the 'fresh winds of enterprise blowing through the sails of ISTD', he supported interdisciplinary crime prevention initiatives which he said gave people a sense of belonging and increased social responsibility and also praised the work of victim support schemes. Those who had been to both AGMs may, like me, have found themselves playing 'spot the difference' and would have found more similarity than expected. Whilst strategic differences certainly exist it seems that the basic coincidence of interest shared by both main political parties is very often obscured by the clamour of political rhetoric.

What I want, and probably what you want is less crime and a more effective and fair system of criminal justice; all we need to do now is to try to agree on how we're going to achieve it. Although ISTD is not a campaigning body this does not mean that its members don't think or have opinions; it does mean that they can meet under one roof to express different opinions within the safety of a common belief that each will be listened to and that their views will be taken seriously.

The ISTD council now consists of 15 members being: Leo Abse, Adrian Arnold, Brian Bishop, John Freeman (Chair), Trevor Hall, David Hurwich, Frances Heidensohn, Stanley Prashker, Sultana Saeed, Brian Stevenson, Joan Worth and Martin Wright. Jeremy Connor (Vice-Chair), Ena Lawton and Michael Sheehan were elected to Council for the first time at the AGM. Council members are responsible to the ISTD membership for the direction of the Institute and comments and suggestions sent to them care of the ISTD office are most welcome.

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### CRIMINAL JUSTICE MATTERS

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The next issue will focus on Crime in Eastern Europe. Contributions are welcome and should be sent to Martin Farrell by 8th April 1991.

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**THE** Magistracy, Police, Crime Prevention, Forensic Psychiatry. The focus for the first four issues of CJM were fairly safe, but this one is different. Women and Crime takes us into rather more controversial territory.

We have tried here not to reproduce well-worn analyses of feminist criminology but have given space to issues which are 'on the fringe'. Chris Tchaikovsky on Tattooing (page 14), Penny Green on the way third world economic deprivation produces 'mules' to carry drugs (page 10/11) and last but not least Kate Painter on Marital Rape (page 18/19). I hear competing voices raised in protest: *She tattooed herself, that's her problem/it was the system that made her do it so the system should clean up its dirty work; drugs couriers know what they're up to and deserve everything they get when they're caught/they're just trying to raise cash to feed their kids; a wife is a man's possession/marital rape is the grossest and most private manifestation of the exploitation of women.* Where do I stand; where do you stand? And then there's Tina who tells her story to Mary Eaton (page 13/14) *'They come in and "room spin" — turn your room over and I'd just laugh'*. In spite of the highest prison population in Europe the remaining 99% of us don't know what its like to wake up day after day in a cell. *(They committed the crime so they've got to be punished/only the dangerous few should be locked up).*

I'm a man (and there's more or less a 50/50 chance that you are too); how dare I write anything on Women and Crime and how come you're reading it—surely women and crime is a women's topic?

In the same way that racism is a problem which should be embraced by white people so should sexism and the way that women are dealt with, whether as victims, offenders or as criminal justice professionals be addressed by men. Indeed, men have had lots of practice at calling the tune; perhaps if they started to play a different melody the whole drama could change.

**Martin Farrell**  
Director, ISTD

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### The Mannheim Centre

It was reported at the AGM that formal discussions were just about to start between representatives of Council of ISTD and members of the newly created Mannheim Centre for Criminal Justice Studies at the London School of Economics to consider the possibility of a partnership between the two bodies. Several models for the association are being considered. There could well be much to be gained for both parties by working together whilst maintaining the

Institute's independence and uniqueness as an independent interdisciplinary body.  
**Martin Farrell**

### Annual Reports

Do you want copies of ISTD Annual Reports some going back to the foundation of the Institute in 1931? We have retained copies for record but must dispose of others to make best use of office space. Contact Martin Farrell by the end of January please or forever hold your peace.