

1. BREAKDOWN OF THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

The Juvenile Justice System was never intended to handle 14 - 16 year old hardened criminals. The youth involved in the "crack" cocaine business are not just your typical joy-riding car thief. These kids are gun carrying criminals who will kill to protect their individual street corners.

These criminals know full well how the system works and will use it against attempts to police a high volume street corner. Indeed, that is why they are involved in the first place. It is hard for a police officer to see major actors in a drug operation walk out of jail with a minor ordinance ticket. They laugh at us, and they laugh at those members of the Select Committee who still think there is no such thing as a "bad boy."

This procedure produces adult criminals who have no respect for the Criminal Justice System.

2. ROLE MODEL CRIMINALS

The "crack" cocaine crisis has produced negative role models for the youth of this nation. Ask a inner city black youth what he wants to be in the future, and don't be surprised if he says, "a major drug dealer."

When a youth in the inner cities look round, he does not see a doctor, lawyer, or a businessman, what he sees is the dope dealer in a new car and spending large amounts of money.

How do we tell a young kid to stay in school and work in the "Burger King" for \$3 a hour, when he can make \$250 a day selling "crack!"

Detroit has a 40% dropout rate between the 9th and 12th grade of high school. These kids have made a decision to live in the fast lane and die there, and when life becomes too hard, just take some "crack."