

THE SYSTEM

Out of Sight, Out of Mind

“Crime takes place in the community. It involves all citizens either as victims or offenders or at least as people who have to pay for the system.”

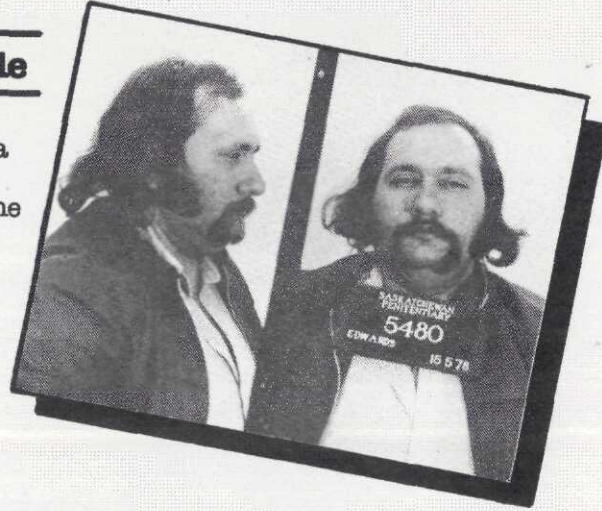
**Larry Krotz,
Waiting for the Ice-Cream Man...a prison journal**

The System: User's Guide

The criminal justice system in Canada affects all Canadians. The degree to which each individual is affected by the system relates to one's involvement, either directly or indirectly, in that system.

The film examines the prejudices, myths, and concerns about the criminal justice system, through the eyes of children, inmates and their families, community leaders and professionals. Those opinions are contrasted with the stark reality of the admissions procedure at a maximum security penitentiary.

The film is primarily designed to evoke discussion. It offers no solutions and avoids any attempt to debate a particular point of view.



Instead, it examines numerous issues, both intellectually and emotionally on the premise that the opinions of any individual on the topic of criminal justice in Canada are worthy of recognition, including those of the audience.



The System — An Overview

DIRECT INVOLVEMENT		INDIRECT INVOLVEMENT	
VOLUNTARY	INVOLUNTARY	VOLUNTARY	INVOLUNTARY
- policeman	- inmate	- community worker	- taxpayers
- lawyer	- spouse of inmate	- politician	- citizens
- judge	- child of inmate	- psychologist	- neighbour of inmate family
- guard	- inmate	- priest	- inmate's ex-boss
- Solicitor - General Department official	- victim - jury member	- social worker of inmate family	- inmate's ex-co-worker - children - teacher

Objectives

1. To stimulate discussion about the criminal justice system in Canada.
2. To create awareness in the community that the fate of a criminal is the responsibility of the whole community.
3. To encourage critical analysis of viewers' attitudes towards socially unacceptable behaviour.

Suggested Uses and Levels

Grades 8 - 12

Social Studies, Guidance,
Values Education, Psychology,
Criminology.

Colleges and Universities

Criminology, Social Work,
Education.

Service Clubs and
Self-Help Groups

Professionals

Police Officers,
Corrections and Parole Personnel.

Background Information

- Canada ranks 6th in the world for the number of persons in prison.
- Of Manitoba's prison population, half is native Indian and Metis.
- Approximately 50% of persons entering federal penitentiaries have committed nonviolent offences against property — i.e. offences against property rather than against persons.
- It costs approximately \$17,000. to keep an inmate at Stony Mountain Penitentiary, Manitoba.
- 80% of the persons admitted to federal penitentiaries have previously been in prison.
- The average age of inmates at Stony Mountain Penitentiary, Manitoba is 24 and getting younger.

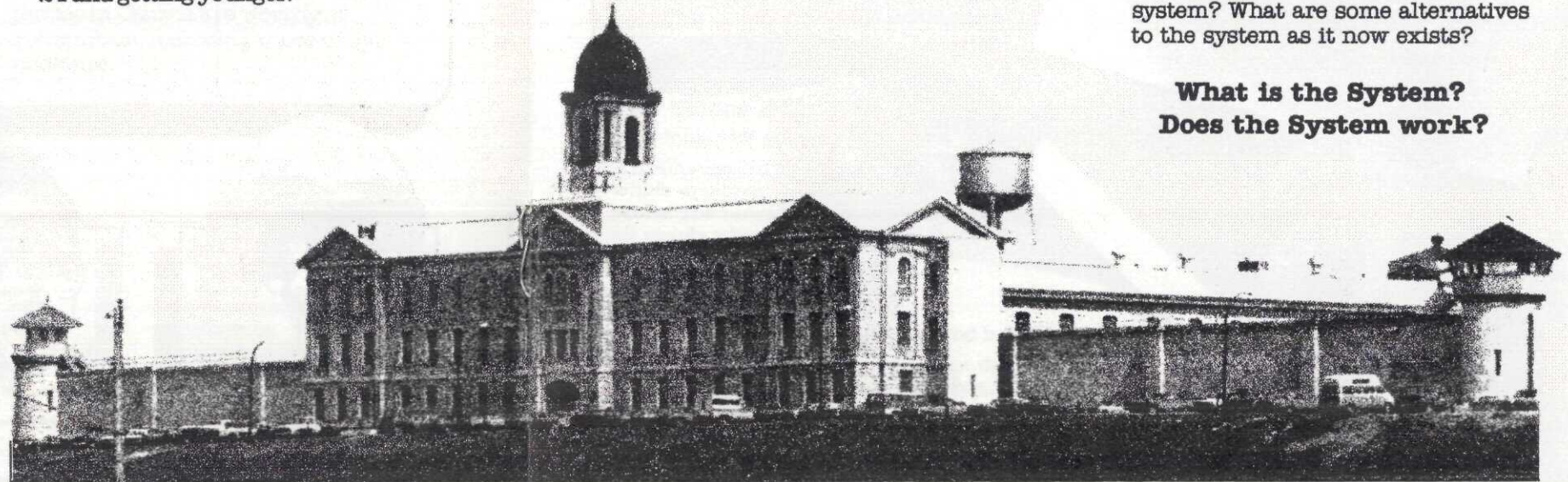
Questions For Group Discussion

The following questions are for the use of discussion group leaders and social animators who intend to use the film with general audiences. They are by no means the only questions that can be asked. Group leaders should promote discussion on whatever level seems appropriate.

1. Prisons are full of people who believe that they can beat the system. What aspects of our society encourage the existence of this attitude? Is the fear of reprisal really a deterrent?

2. A great deal of money and human resources are tied up in the criminal justice system in Canada. Yet 80% of the persons in federal penitentiaries are repeaters. Why is the prison system unable to carry out its function to rehabilitate criminals?
3. One of the children says that prisoners are "caged like animals". Can attitudes of self-control and responsibility develop in an environment of social control? Can humanity be preserved behind bars?
4. What does the system do to those who work within it? Do attitudes towards prisoners change with experience working in the prison system? What are some alternatives to the system as it now exists?

**What is the System?
Does the System work?**



1. How do you feel when someone in your group takes something of yours or threatens you?
2. Do you feel people's behaviour can be changed by punishment? If so, how? If not, how can it be changed?
3. Who do you feel most sympathetic to in the film?
4. What do you think the title "Out of Sight, Out of Mind" means?
5. What do you think is the most difficult thing about being in prison?
6. What happens when someone in your group decides to behave in a way that is not approved of by the rest of the group?
7. When you do something that society (i.e. your parents, teacher or supervisor) says is wrong, how do you make yourself feel better and regain their trust?

Values Clarification Exercise For Classroom Use

These questions have been developed to encourage individual responses to the film and should be given out before group discussion. Used in this way, the film and the questions should encourage a critical appraisal of the values and attitudes held by each viewer.

Films

These titles are available from National Film Board libraries across Canada.

Cell 16/106C 0171 111

14 minutes 23 seconds — colour

Dimly-lit corridors and claustrophobic views of a prison cell create a powerful impression of one man's mental state while in prison. Unstructured fragments of the prisoner's writing give us a vision of the mental torment that can be part of a prisoner's experience.

Prison/106C 0175 179

10 minutes 20 seconds — animation

Black and white animated drawings illustrate one man's experience as a prisoner from the day of his arrival until he comes to terms with his imprisonment. An effective sound track heightens the psychological impact of this film.

The Sloane Affair/106C 0172 569

53 minutes 27 seconds — colour

A dramatized investigation of a tax fraud which explores the world of business crime. The film is a good reminder that not all people who come before the courts are society's outcasts.

Station 10/106C 0173 001

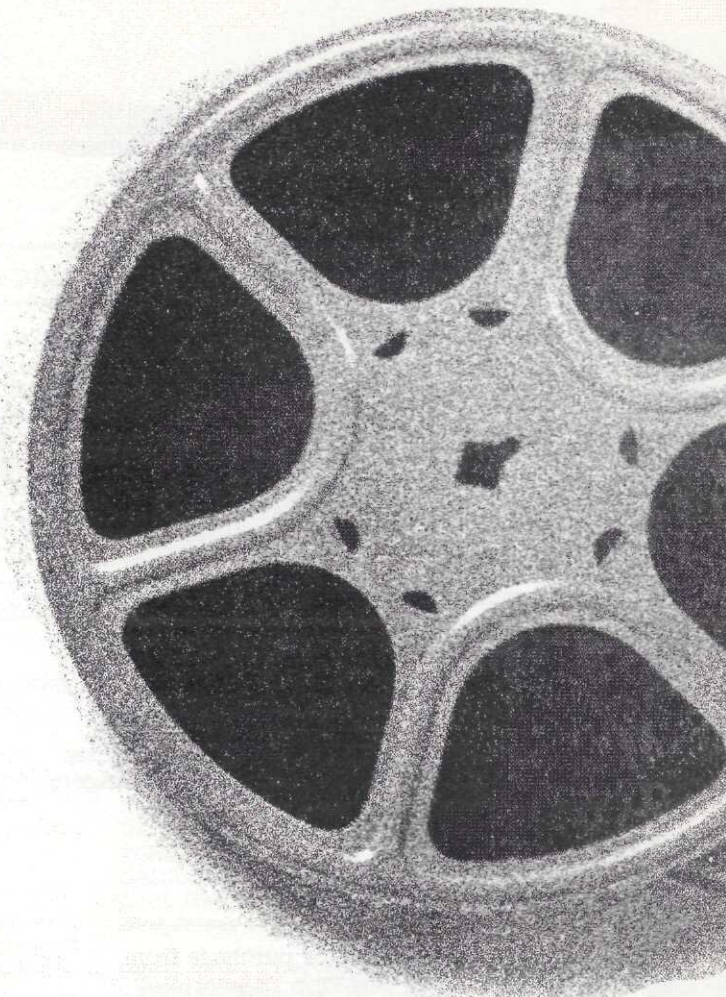
57 minutes 50 seconds — colour and b & w

This fast-moving film documents the daily routine of a large urban police station in Montreal. Although some sections are suitable only for adult viewers, the film is an excellent treatment of the difficult job of police work, and could be used with older high school students.

Two Years Or More/106C 0170 563

26 minutes 48 seconds — colour

A straightforward documentary about the prison system as it was ten years ago in Canada. The differences between maximum and medium security penitentiaries are outlined, and one prisoner is followed through to a release under supervision in a halfway house.



Thin Line/106C 0177 012

32 minutes — colour

The federal penitentiary at Penataguishene is where the criminally insane receive treatment that may involve a total rebuilding of personality. Because of the content of some of the treatment sessions, this film should be used with discretion.

Whistling Smith/106C 0175 011

27 minutes 20 seconds — colour

The life of a big city cop is not easy — but "Whistling Smith's" approach to upholding the law in his district is one way of dealing with potential criminals before they break the law.

Attica

79 minutes — colour — 1973

Available on rental from New Cinema, 36 Britain Street, Toronto, Ontario. M5A 1R7, Telephone: (416) 862-1674

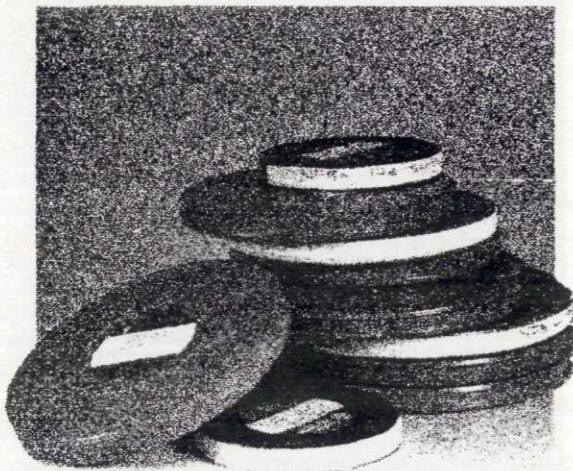
A feature length documentary about the Attica State Prison riot. The film combines interviews of the participants with footage of the insurrection and subsequent investigations.

Scared Straight

54 minutes — colour

Available for rental or purchase from International Tele-Film Enterprises, 47 Densley Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, M6M 5A8, Telephone: (416) 241-4483

The film follows a group of 17 juvenile offenders — ages 14 to 18 — before, during, and after their half-day at Rahway State Prison in New Jersey. There they are introduced to the toughest convicts who barrage the kids until they are humiliated and perhaps forced to rethink their lives.



CBC films, which are available from most NFB film libraries in Canada, include the following titles which might be of interest to users of "The System".

Criminal Negligence

106C 0177 249 — 50 minutes 55 seconds

Dreamspeaker

106C 0178 053 — 76 minutes 02 seconds

A Question Of Rape

106C 0177 250 — 50 minutes 45 seconds

Regina Vs. Willis

106C 0177 266 — 50 minutes 17 seconds

Trafficking In Narcotics

106C 0177 272 — 50 minutes 10 seconds

Bibliography — General Reading

THE CRIME OF PUNISHMENT, by Karl Menninger, The Viking Press / MacMillan Company of Canada, Library of Congress Catalog #66-15905, 1966-68.

CRIME AND YOU, by A. M. Kirkpatrick and W. T. McGrath, The MacMillan Company of Canada, Maclean-Hunter Press, 1976.

CRUEL AND UNUSUAL, by Gerald McNeil with Sharon Vance, Deneau & Greenberg, 1978.

THE FELON, by John Irwin, Prentice-Hall Inc., Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey — 07632, 1970.

KIND AND USUAL PUNISHMENT: THE PRISON BUSINESS, by Jessica Mitford, Vintage Books, Random House, New York, 1974.

REPORT OF THE CANADIAN COMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS (OUIMET REPORT) — TOWARD UNITY: CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND CORRECTIONS, Queen's Printer, March 31, 1969.

REPORT TO PARLIAMENT BY THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON THE PENITENTIARY SYSTEM OF CANADA, 1977. Available by mail from Printing and Publishing, Supply and Services Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0S9, (\$3.50).

WAITING FOR THE ICE-CREAM MAN...A PRISON JOURNAL, by Larry Krotz and John Paskievich, Converse, Winnipeg, Manitoba, 1978.

More Advanced Reading

BECOMING DEVIANT, by David Matza, Prentice — Hall Inc., Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey, 1969.

CLOSING CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS, by Yitzhak Bakal, Lexington Books, Lexington, Mass., 1973.

CRIME AND JUSTICE IN SOCIETY, by Richard Quinney, Little, Brown & Co., Inc., Boston, 1969.

DECARCERATION: COMMUNITY TREATMENT AND THE DEVIANT — A RADICAL VIEW, (Sociology), by Andrew T. Scull, Prentice-Hall Inc., Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey — 07632, 1977.

DEVIANCE AND CONTROL: THE SECULAR HERESY, (Sociology), by Terence Morris, Hutchinson of London: The Anchor Press, 3 Fitzroy Square, London West One, England, 1976.

LAW AND SOCIAL CONTROL IN CANADA, by W. K. Greenaway and S. L. Brickey, Prentice — Hall of Canada Limited, Scarborough, Ontario, 1978.

THE SYSTEM

Out of Sight, Out of Mind

Director: Derek Mazur

Editor: Tom Yapp

Cinematography: Allan Kroeker

Assistant Cameraman: Ian Elkin

Location Sound Recording: Leon Johnson

Sound Editor: Bill Eakin

Technical Advisor: Stan Falconer

Re-recording: Clive Perry

Studio Administrator: Charles Lough

Executive Producer: Michael Scott

Jay Edwards, inmate played by Jay Brazeau

Photo by John Paskievich

Produced by

The National Film Board of Canada, Prairie Region
for The Canadian Correctional Service
Department of the Solicitor General, Canada

Distributed by

The National Film Board of Canada

106C 0178 687 — 16 mm Colour

116C 0178 687 — 3/4 inch video cassette Colour

Screening time: 19 minutes 26 seconds

Running length: 213.4 metres



National
Film Board
of Canada

Office
national du film
du Canada

Prairie
Region
Production