



HOME OFFICE  
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE  
LONDON SW1H 9AT

4 November 1986

*Dear Stephen,*

I understand that at the Strategy Group meeting yesterday the Prime Minister expressed an interest in studying the notes from which the Home Secretary spoke in giving his presentation on law and order. I attach a clean copy of these notes which should be read in conjunction with the figures and tables circulated at the meeting.

The Home Secretary has set in hand a paper on the remand population. If there are any points which are unclear from the notes I should be happy to arrange for any necessary further explanatory material to be produced.

I attach six copies as I understand you may wish to circulate them to other members of the Strategy Group.

*Yours ever*

EDWARD BICKHAM

Stephen Sherbourne Esq  
Political Secretary to the Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON  
SW1

NOTES FOR THE HOME SECRETARY'S PRESENTATION ON LAW AND ORDER -  
STRATEGY GROUP - 3 NOVEMBER

1. Central Problem

Continuing steady rise in level of crime.

2. Objective

'To build upon the existing strategy vigorously in order to maintain public confidence in the Government's policies and to seek to build a partnership between the public and the formal criminal justice system'.

3. Nature of Crime

Figure 1: Rise in level of crime - 5% p.a. in 60s  
6% p.a. in 70s  
7% p.a. in late  
70s & 80s

Comparable with rest of Western Europe - less bad than U.S.A.  
But British Crime Survey suggests that only about 25% of crime gets reported - extra police officers are probably making inroads into the vast shadowy area of unrecorded crime.

Figure 2: Make up of crime - 4% violence against person  
(inc. sexual offences)  
23% theft of or from cars.

Peak age for offending 14 girls, 15 boys - the problem needs to be tackled in schools and by parents.

[1982 Criminal Justice Act made parents liable for children's fines - in 1984 some 6,500 parents did so]  
- 30% of males have criminal conviction by age of 28.

4. ANSWERS - [Figure 3 - Achievements].

(A) Crime Prevention - mobilising the responsibility of the individual citizen - 15,000 Neighbourhood Watch schemes [we should encourage a strong Party involvement].

Lot of scope for prevention - 25% burglaries do not require forced entry.

80% of car thefts opportunistic.

Community Programme going well (6,500 places); 5 towns; Advertising. Spending £27 million on crime prevention.

i) but, a vegetarian dish.

ii) given nature of crime, if object is to reduce total of recorded crime, then crime prevention is best way forward.

ALCOHOL: A growing worry as cause of crime. Will need much thought.

A Possible initiative - National Neighbourhood Watch Association.

(B) Police - 10,000 extra officers - 5,500 civilians  
- Police Grant 51%  
- 3,200 more officers over coming 3 years

Number of cases 'cleared-up' risen by 25% since 1979.

Election will take place against background of continuing increase in manpower.

But - Problems with - endless cost  
- more police does not equal less crime  
- local difficulties with Police Authorities  
- police pressing for more manpower  
(particularly in London)

Edmund-Davies will next be reviewed after September/October 1987. Has pushed police ahead far faster than rest of public sector - source of resentment.

Police/Community Relations - crucial for information and enforcement.

We have instituted: police/community consultative groups  
lay visitor schemes  
tape recording  
Police Complaints Authority  
ethnic recruitment.

Planned - thorough overhaul of police training.

Public Order Bill/Act - will provide publicity opportunities this week.

(C) Prisons - largest building programme in 20th Century  
- 11,500 new places  
- crucial that advances in getting management's grip re-established should be continued in face of militant POA

Initiatives - i) 'A Fresh Start';  
ii) consider 'No Disruption Agreement'; and  
iii) longer term study of Private Prisons

Ending over-crowding remains objective - still too many who shouldn't be sent to prison going there - remand population too high; beefing-up Community Service Orders.

Figures 4 & 5 - Prison Populations 1979 & 1985 - big changes are growth in remand population and number of drug offenders.

(D) The Courts

We have raised maxima for attempted rape and trafficking in Class A drugs to life. Firearms maximum to be increased in Criminal Justice Bill.

Rise in sentencing practice - +30% for rape; +20% for robbery over last 20 years, our courts already arguably the most punitive in Western Europe.

Figure 6 - Main measures in Criminal Justice Bill

- Juries
- Crackdown on major crime - confiscation/fraud
- Extradition

Mandatory or minimum sentences unattractive - inflexible and would have to be set too low.

? Lenient Sentences

(E) Victims

Action taken - rape circular to police

Action planned - £9 million to Victim Support

- Compensation orders
- CICB (? short-term political problems)
- Child Abuse - live video links

(F) International

Extradition reform planned; US/UK Treaty signed

? greater use of deportation powers

EC Interior Ministers - frontier controls; anti-drugs action; anti-terrorism

Drugs - good public profile - ut likely to get worse before it improves.

5. Political Climate

Figure 7 - Law and Order - at present 5th most important political subject for the electorate (equal with education) - has declined in recent months.

Fallen from a high point post 1985 riots.

Figure 8 - Conservative policies on law and order receive support of 48%, 22% for Labour, 8% for SDP/Libs.

Only major subject where this is equalled is defence.

Figure 9 - What types of crime concern you most?

Child Abuse - more work to be done, but we have changed law of evidence so husbands and wives can give evidence against each other; increased penalty for indecently assaulting a young girl; register for local authority employees; video links for children giving evidence of violent or sexual crimes.

Figure 10 - Labour Party strengths and weaknesses - suggested lines of attack.

#### 6. Potential Pitfalls

- continuing rise in crime figures - 1986 looks bad; reversal of fall in burglary recorded in 1985.

Probably sharp fall in clear-up rate (?down 10%+).

- Conflict with POA in prisons.
- Riots (Inner Cities) - post Easter 1987  
Lucky no very serious trouble this year.

Inner Cities Initiative only making slow progress; UDCs may be the right answer in a few areas, but in most places we have got to find ways of re-motivating and mobilising responsible people in the communities.

7. Areas where further measures are under consideration (on top of Criminal Justice Bill and increases in police strengths)

- National Neighbourhood Watch
- Inner Cities Crime Task Forces

- Alcohol and Crime
- Child Abuse
  
- Police Training
  
- Enhanced role for MPs in relation to Metropolitan Police
  
- Private sector involvement in prisons.

Mobilising people: a key theme must be that of the good neighbour.

File

Paper submitted by  
the Home Secretary  
at the meeting of the  
Strategy Group on  
Monday 3rd November

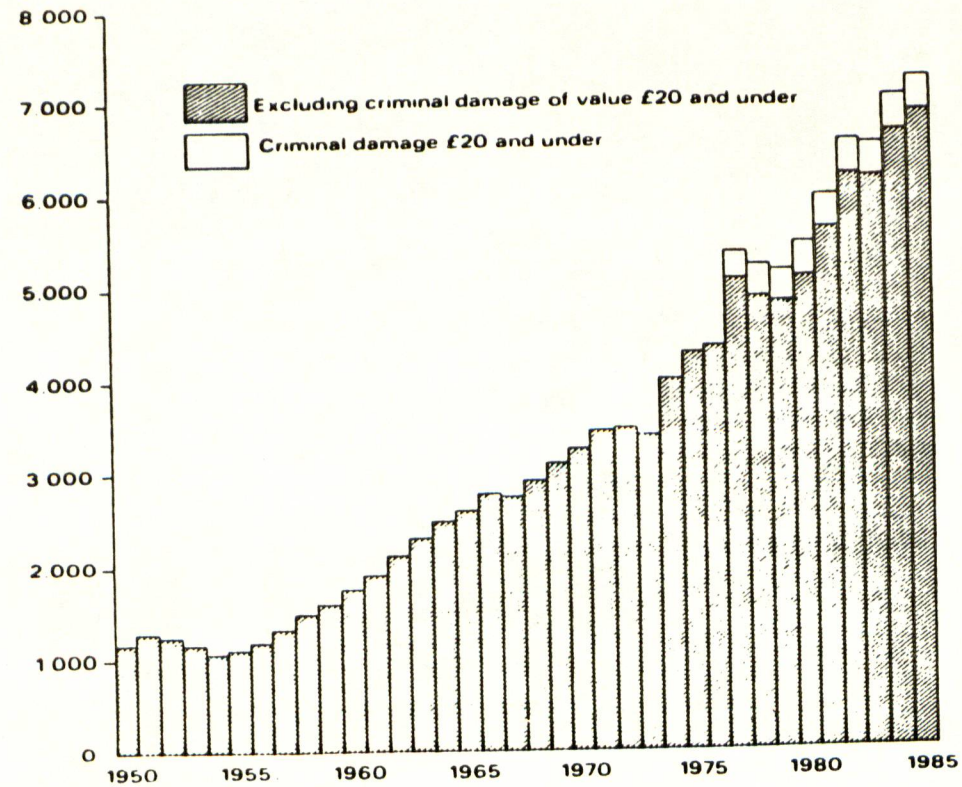
Copies to:-            Professor Griffiths  
                              Mr. Booth  
                              Mr. Addison



**Figure 2.1** Notifiable<sup>1</sup> offences recorded by the police per 100,000 population

England and Wales

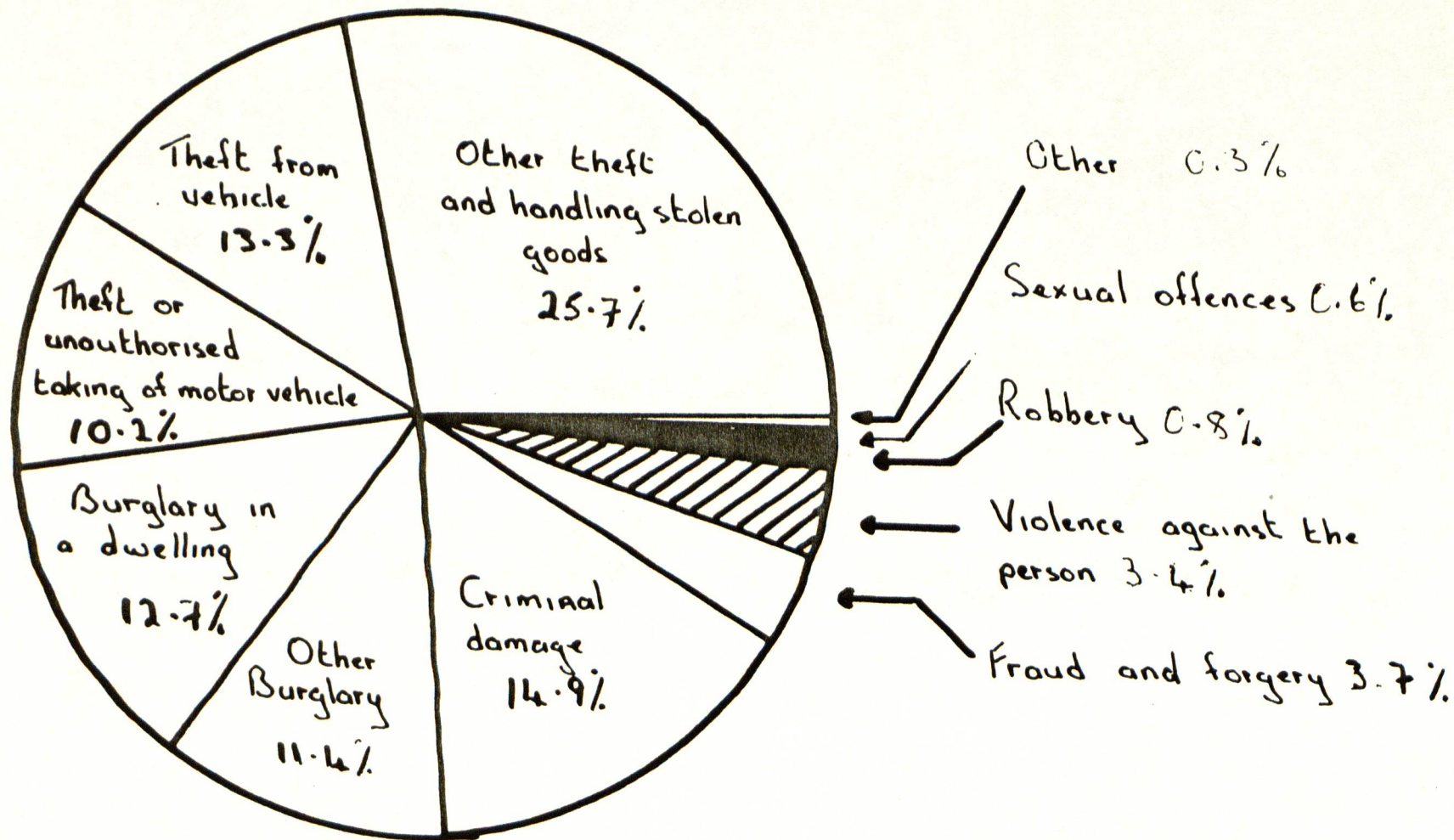
Number of offences per 100 000 population



<sup>1</sup> Indictable offences in 1978 and earlier years.

# Notifiable offences recorded by the police by offence group

England and Wales 1985



GOVERNMENT ACTION AGAINST CRIME

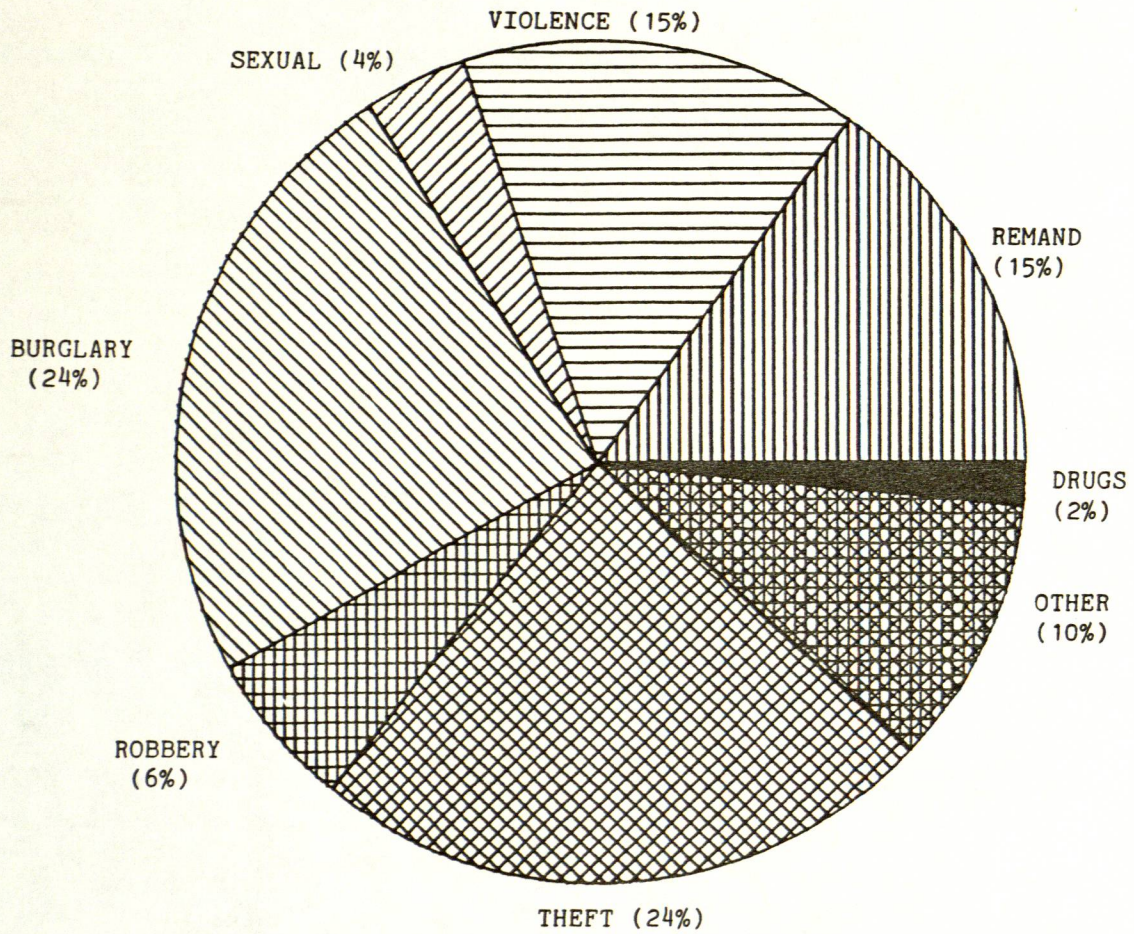
- \* CRIME PREVENTION DRIVE LAUNCHED =
- \* 10,000 MORE POLICE OFFICERS: RESOURCES UP 38%
- \* POLICE POWERS STRENGTHENED: INITIATIVES TO IMPROVE PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN POLICE
- \* 6 MAJOR PIECES OF LEGISLATION SINCE 1982
- \* MAXIMUM SENTENCES INCREASED FOR DRUG TRAFFICKING AND ATTEMPTED RAPE
- \* LONGER PERIODS IN PRISON FOR WORST MURDERS: PAROLE CURTAILED FOR VIOLENT CRIME
- \* FIRM MEASURES AGAINST DRUG TRAFFICKING
- \* FIRM ACTION AGAINST TERRORISM
- \* TOUGH ACTION TO DEAL WITH FOOTBALL AND OTHER HOOLIGANS
- \* PRISON BUILDING PROGRAMME
- \* BETTER DEAL FOR VICTIMS

15,000 Neighbourhood  
watch schemes

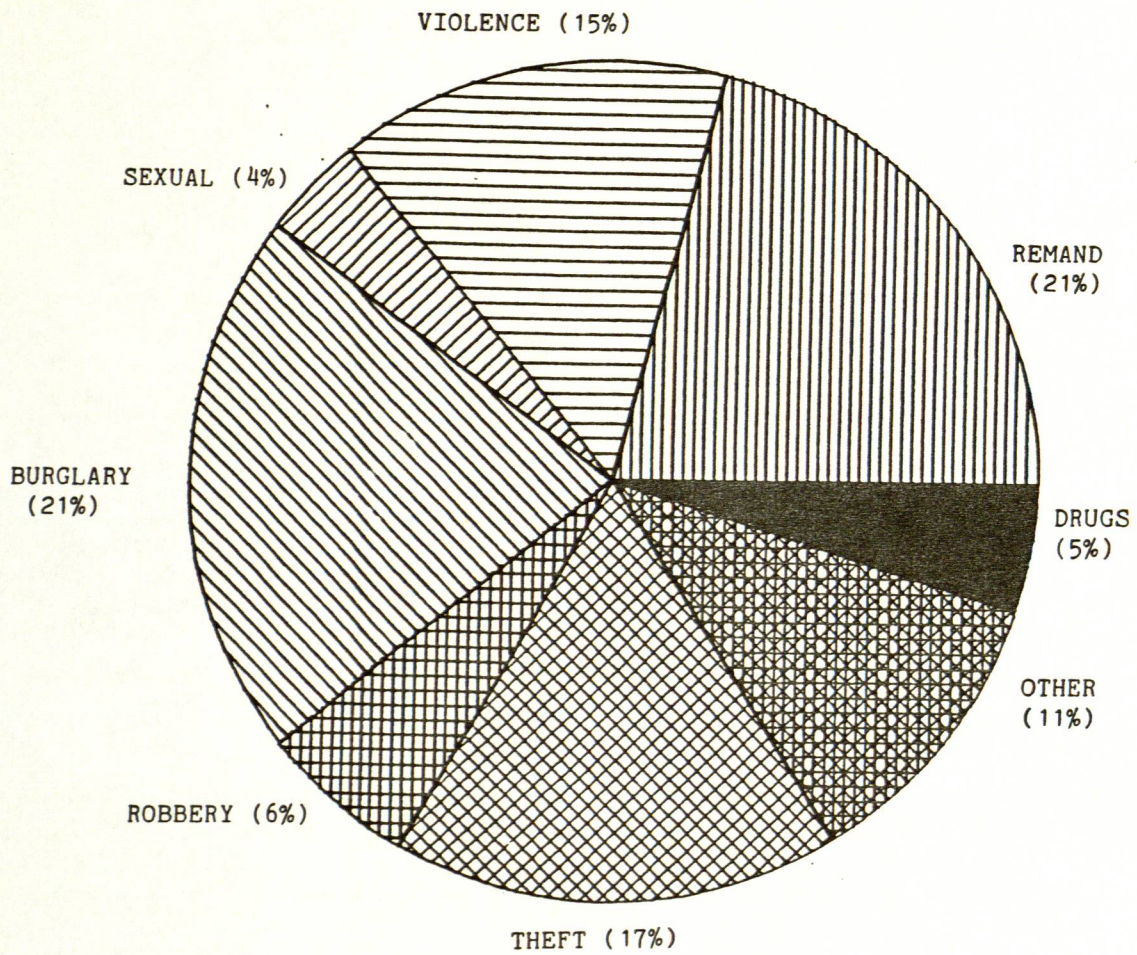
11,500 new places

THE PRISON POPULATION BY OFFENCE TYPE

MID 1979 TOTAL POPULATION 41,800



THE PRISON POPULATION BY OFFENCE TYPE  
MID 1985 TOTAL POPULATION 47,300



CRIMINAL JUSTICE BILL

\* STRENGTHEN JURIES (ABOLITION OF PEREMPTORY CHALLENGE)

\* CRACK-DOWN ON FRAUD

\* CONFISCATION OF PROCEEDS OF HIGHLY PROFITABLE CRIME

\* REFORM OF EXTRADITION (ACTION AGAINST TERRORISTS & ORGANISED CRIME)

? ACTION AGAINST WAYWARD LENIENT SENTENCES

\* MEASURES FOR VICTIMS

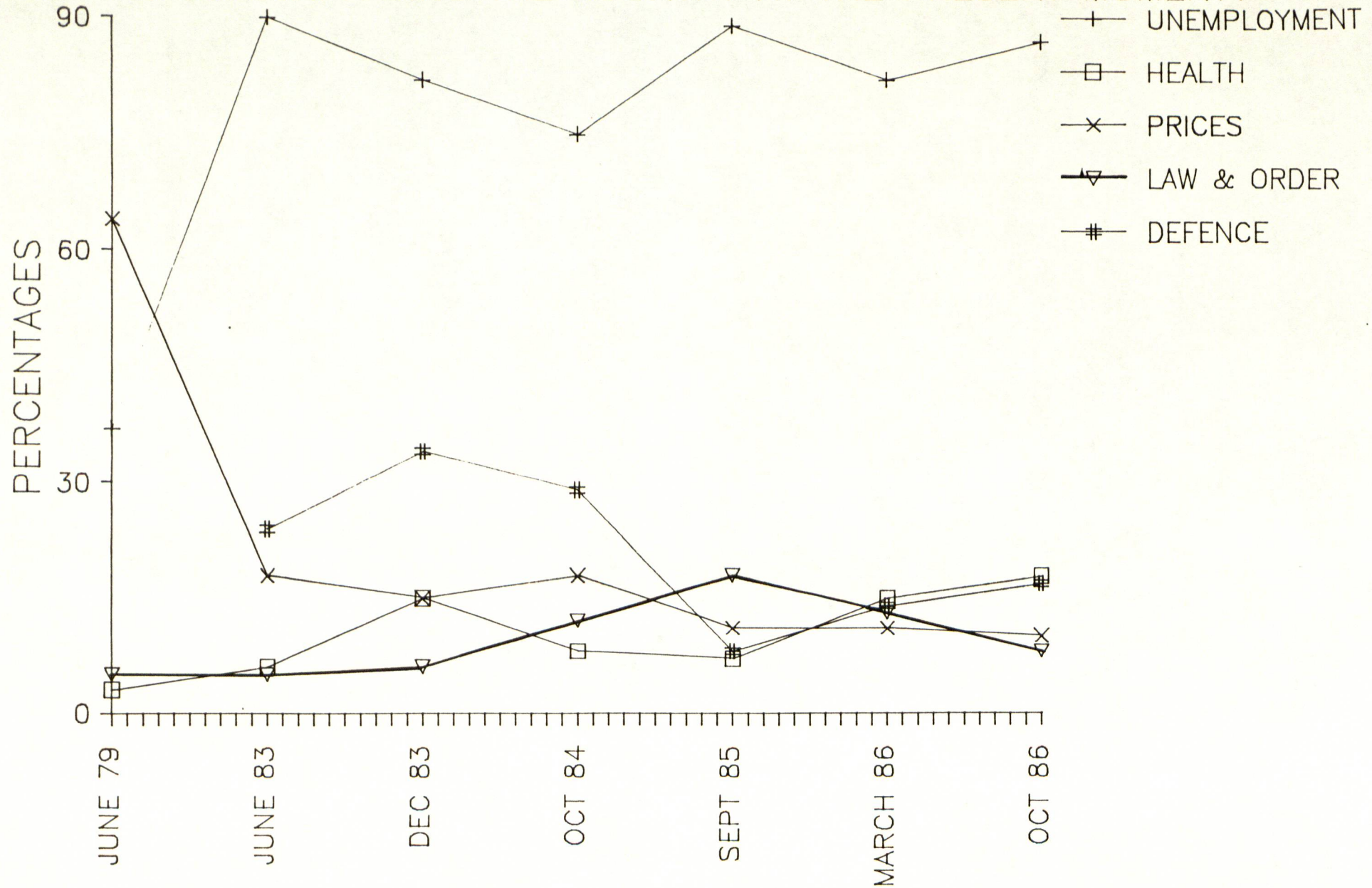
\* INCREASED COURT EFFICIENCY

\* REFORM OF PRISON DISCIPLINE

\* INCREASED MAXIMUM SENTENCE FOR CARRYING FIREARMS DURING CRIME

\* ABOLITION OF ANONYMITY OF RAPE DEFENDANTS

# Q. WHAT WOULD YOU SAY ARE THE MOST URGENT PROBLEMS FACING THE COUNTRY AT THE PRESENT MOMENT?



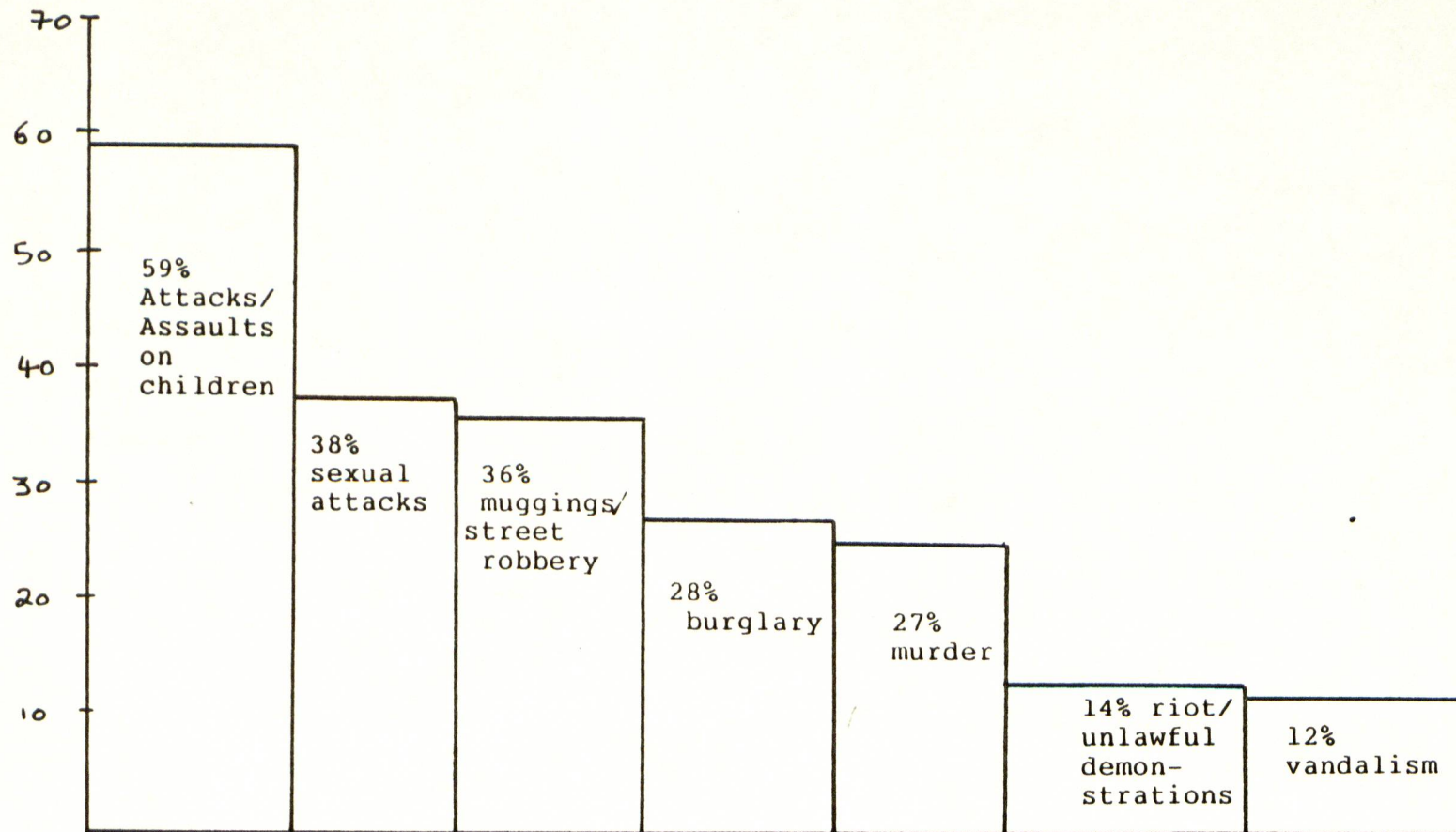
Q: WHICH PARTY DO YOU THINK HAS THE BEST POLICIES TO DEAL WITH

	<u>LAW &amp; ORDER</u>	<u>DEFENCE</u>	<u>EDUCATION</u>	<u>UNEMPLOYMENT</u>	<u>HEALTH</u>
CONSERVATIVE	48	48	30	22	19
LABOUR	22	22	40	46	51
SDP/LIBERAL	8	11	10	10	11
DON'T KNOW	21	19	20	22	20

(Gallup 16/21 October)



Q: WHICH TYPE OF CRIMES CAUSE YOU THE MOST CONCERN?



L A B O U R P A R T Y

STRENGTHS

- \* CONTINUING RISE IN CRIME
- \* EMPHASIS ON CRIME PREVENTION AND VICTIMS

WEAKNESSES

- \* ANTI-POLICE AND PRO-SINN FEIN ANTICS
- \* THREAT TO IMPOSE 'POLITICAL CONTROL' ON POLICE
- \* EQUIVOCATION ON PICKET LINE VIOLENCE
- \* COMMITMENT TO SCRAP PREVENTION OF TERRORISM ACT
- \* LABOUR'S RECORD WHEN LAST IN GOVERNMENT
- \* LABOUR WILL NOT GIVE PRIORITY TO THEIR ANTI-CRIME PLEDGES