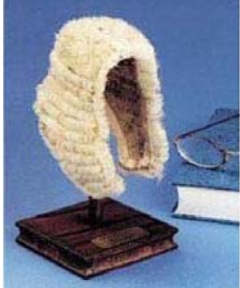


The Burning Bush—Online article archive

Judges warn that new drink laws will increase street crime



Judges in England and Wales have warned government ministers to expect a huge increase in rapes, domestic violence and serious assaults as a result of the relaxation of drinking laws this year.

Senior judges have told the Home Office to expect incidents of alcohol-fuelled violent crime to soar when the new law allowing round-the-clock drinking comes into force in November. A paper from the Council of Her Majesty's Circuit Judges said: "Those who routinely see the consequences of drink-fuelled violence in offences of rape, grievous bodily harm and worse on a daily basis are in no doubt that an escalation of offences of this nature will inevitably be caused by the relaxation of liquor licensing which the Government has now authorised." Chief constables joined in the criticism of the plans, giving warning that British town centres could soon resemble notorious foreign holiday resorts where young Britons binge-drink and engage in indecent activities in public. The judges' prediction that rapes and violent crime will rise must surely cause most alarm in government ranks. A paper from the Association of Chief Police Officers (Acpo) said: "One only has to look to popular holiday destinations to see the effect of allowing British youth unrestricted access to alcohol."

What perversion there is in the logic of our government who believe that making alcohol more freely available will help the current epidemic of drunkenness!