

Students enlisted...

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Don't get me wrong - I'm not advocating leniency for criminal behavior. Nobody wants to see crime go unpunished.

But a person has to begin to suspect an underlying plot when the government has no money to provide its citizens with a means of survival but is all too willing to shell out money to put them behind bars. It seems that the problem of overcrowded prisons is a national problem and the common solution seems to be to build more prisons.

No one seems concerned that the real problem - an economic system which is designed to provide some with

too much and others with not enough - is more of an incentive to commit a crime than lenient weapon laws.

But, don't think I'm advocating criminal behavior to those of you who have been victims of the new economic plan. The recent twist of events, however, seems to expose the planned fate of this new class of unemployed college dropouts.

Has anyone noticed the sudden increase in war propaganda lately? We have movies about the fun and excitement of basic training, TV shows about the crazy antics of women in the U.S. Army, and commercials about being a proud Marine.

Not only are the mass media clever in their portrayal of

the thrill of military life, but we learn that the government has somehow found money to finance a wartime defense budget - even though there's no war.

Suddenly I become extremely conscious of posters on building walls offering to pay full tuition - all I have to do is enlist in the armed forces. Sounds pretty good to a student who just got cut from financial aid.

Alternatives for the future look pretty limited for the poor, unemployed dropouts to come. The only thing this country can afford to do is send them to jail or enlist them in the military.

This must be the great American society Ronald Reagan keeps talking about.

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