

Conclusion

At this point I close my notes of aspects of equality under the law. I began on a pessimistic note and I end wondering whether I have given cause to any one to doubt whether our expectations that freedom and justice will be defended surely in the courts, are solidly based in experience. I do not regard the examples I have cited as being unfair to our legal system as a whole. They show a deal of intolerance and zeal on behalf of officials meeting precious little resistance in the courts. It is what courts do in a crisis that counts, what they do when their loyalties to received values of our system is brought sorely into question by those who have power and prestige. That is what truly tests the mettle of the courts as citadels of equality, and of compassion for the weak, the poor and the oppressed who have fallen across the path of men who stride confidently through the upper reaches of society.

It should be the task of courts to contain power, not to concretise it.

RELEASED AGAIN

by Dave Stanford

*I will be leaving soon,
As I have many times before.
But this time I shall go knowing
That I have learnt a little more.*

*My mind has been opened
To this repetitious strife,
And in my years of rehabilitation,
I have learnt about my life.*

*In crowded yards and closed shops,
There is no scope for responsibility.
Where can I find self-esteem or confidence,
Or any reason for maturity?*

*How can one have pride at work
For so small a pay?
And where is the incentive
And the will to learn another way?*

*Tomorrow I shall leave,
And all that I can see
Are the fruits of my labour —
A sense of INSECURITY.*