

## "HARD" ON CRIME

By James W. Harkleroad

Those who seek an elected office are almost always good for a sound bite that declares how they will be "hard" on crime.

Sure enough sounds good!

"Hard on crime!"

But once you look at the rules and laws - what you see is an emphasis on punishing those (usually the poor) who harm individuals. With a sparsity of punishments for those (usually the powerful) who harm groups, communities, states - even the nation.

We all know that the powerful get laws passed that will benefit them personally at the expense of the state/nation.

A state of affairs that WE have permitted for years because WE have declined to hold our elected officials responsible for their actions and inactions.

WE have been satisfied with table scraps from our elected officials while those same elected officials have served steak to the powerful.

One result is a two-tier criminal justice system that wastes billions of dollars on "punishment" while spending pennies on "prevention".

When you favor one class of people at the expense of all of the other classes then - as history shows - that nation will fall.

You get what you pay for. You reap what you sow.

And there will be no one to save the rich, the influential, the middle class and the poor from the results of their own short-sighted stupidity.