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### JUROR'S RESPONSIBILITY

I agree with Miss Smoker's views on affirmation (December 1977) but think it misguided of her to have dodged jury service because of being "very reluctant to sit in judgement on anyone." Someone has to decide the guilt or innocence of persons accused of crime, and there is surely no fairer method than the jury system.

Miss Smoker remarks that most of the jurors she watched at the Old Bailey probably found the evidence "quite incomprehensible". She sneers at people who still refer to the administration of law as "justice". Would she not have served the ends of justice better by lending her educated intelligence to the efforts of less capable people striving to reach just conclusions in the cases committed to their charge?

This strikes me as a rather reprehensible abdication of social responsibility - a modern variant of "trahison des clercs" perhaps.

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