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## **Controlling football hooligans**

The government propose in the Football Spectators Bill to place controls only on hooligans already convicted. That is plainly insufficient, for in this area convictions are few. Police thankfully release most hooligans as soon as the action is over. So I suggest that a remedial Act should be based on the following.

The Act should target the class from which the trouble arises, namely males appearing to be between the ages of sixteen and twenty-five. It should make it an offence for anyone (whether or not in the course of trade) to supply drink or drugs to such a person, or provide them with passage overseas, unless satisfied that this is not likely to lead to their involvement in public disorder.

The Act should require a register to be kept, with photographs and other identifying details, of all young males convicted or suspected of having been, or intending to be, involved in such disorder. Copies of this register, continually updated, should be distributed to suppliers of alcohol and to air or sea carriers. It should be an offence for recipients to do business with persons who are on this register or are already under the influence of drink or drugs.

By this remedy, rigorously enforced, society will show it is not prepared to tolerate anti-social behaviour by youths. Some few who are innocent may be deprived of their excitement. That is a small price to pay, and will lead to peer pressure towards good behaviour.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Times, 18 September 1989.