

Holding The Line: A Sequel

In a missive written in August 2023 titled *Holding The Line* [1] I quoted a paragraph from a 2012 missive:

"I have some forty years experience of interaction with the police, from ordinary constables and detectives, to custody sergeants, to officers from specialist branches such as SO12, SO13, and crime squads. During that time, I have known far more good police officers than bad - corrupt - ones. Furthermore, I realized that most of those I came into contact with were good individuals, motivated by the best of intentions, who were trying to do their best, often under difficult circumstances, and often to help victims of dishonourable deeds, catch those responsible for such deeds, and/or prevent such deeds."

In the matter of the British Police those four decades of mine, from the late 1960's to the early 2000's, provided me in retrospect with a particular insight which, combined with others, contributed to my rejection of all extremisms. Thus I have a hitherto unvoiced personal response when there is some report - as there now seems to be almost every week in the mass media - of some person or persons or of some 'policy group' or of some politician "losing confidence" in the Police and demanding some reform or other or that some figurehead resign.

Which response of mine is that those who for whatever reason and from whatever motive criticize the Police or the Police response to some incident or to some crime real or alleged, is that such critics preferably before, or after, they publicly voice such criticism should spent at least a month with Police officers "on the front line" and experience what such officers face almost every day with what over the past decade or more have become limited and increasingly shrinking resources and a dwindling number of officers. In many instances, these officers have only a split-second to decide what to do in a particular situation.

Would those critics then revise their opinion? For we now seem to have the all too familiar 'those who do not know' complaining about those who, from practical experience, do know.

To me, at least, there are lessons here for our Western societies and for their future. But who now listens to such ancient wisdom as this: τῆ δ' ἐπιστήμη σύ μου πρῶτοις τάχ' ἄν που, "about this, your experience has the advantage over mine," Sophocles, *Oedipus Tyrannus*, 1115. [3]

David Myatt
April 23rd 2024

[1] <https://davidmyatt.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/holding-the-line.pdf>

[2] *The Politics and Ideology of Hate*, <https://davidmyattinfo.files.wordpress.com/2024/03/dm-politics-of-hate-2012.pdf>

[3] <https://davidmyatt.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/oedipus-tyrannus-v1.pdf>