



# OBNOXIOUS! OUTRAGEOUS!

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## JUDGE'S ROYAL PARDON SHOCKER

By ARNOT McWHINNIE

A JUDGE made an astonishing attack yesterday on the way a man convicted of murder was given a royal pardon.

He told a jury: "You may well have come to the clear conclusion that he was rightly convicted."

The man at the centre of the storm is 48-year-old Patrick Meehan, who was freed from jail in May after serving nearly seven years.

The judge, Lord Robertson, said: "There is no legal justification whatsoever for saying that Meehan was wrongly convicted."

He went on to suggest that Meehan's conviction for killing elderly Mrs. Rachel Ross still stood, despite the pardon.

The judge spoke out at the end of a second trial over the same murder.

This time, 38-year-old Ian Waddell was in the dock. He was a prosecution witness when Meehan got a life sentence in 1969.

Yesterday, the jury acquitted Waddell of murder—and also cleared



Patrick Meehan yesterday

him of giving false evidence at Meehan's trial.

During the judge's summing up, Meehan stormed angrily from the public gallery at Edinburgh High Court.

He said outside: "I might as well tear up my royal pardon. It's a worthless piece of paper. It seems I am still convicted."

The judge said of the pardon: "I have always thought that, in the ordinary use of language, if you pardon someone you pardon them for something they have done—not for something they haven't done."

"It certainly does not quash the conviction."

Lord Robertson told the jury that the guilty verdict at Meehan's trial was fully justified. He went on:

● An appeal was later turned down.

Thereafter, Meehan tried to reopen the case in various ways, all of which failed.

Some public support was whipped up over the years for reasons which are not entirely clear and for motives which may be imagined.

This had undesirable consequences... which have interfered with the due process of law and the administration of justice.

When the jury's verdict was announced, Meehan's 46-year-old wife Betty screamed at the judge.

● Who killed Rachel Ross?—Centre Pages.

# TV FURY OVER ROCK CULT FILTH



CARPETED: Grundy

A POP group shocked millions of viewers last night with the filthiest language heard on British television.

The Sex Pistols, leaders of the new "punk rock" cult, hurled a string of four-letter obscenities at interviewer Bill Grundy on Thames TV's family teatime programme "Today".

The Thames switchboard was flooded with protests from angry viewers. Nearly 200 telephoned the Mirror. One man was so furious that he kicked in the screen of his £380 colour TV.

Grundy was immediately carpeted by his boss. Thames broadcast an official apology and Grundy will make a personal apology in tonight's programme.

### Shocker

The show, screened live at peak children's viewing time, turned into a shocker when Grundy asked about £40,000 that the Sex Pistols are said to have received from their record company.

One member of the group said: "F---ing spent it, didn't we?"

Then when Grundy asked about people who preferred Beethoven, Mozart and Bach, another Sex Pistol remarked: "That's just their tough s---"

Grundy did not quite hear "tough s---" and insisted on its being

By STUART GREIG, MICHAEL MCCARTHY and JOHN PEACOCK

repeated until it was loud and clear.

Later he said: "Go on, you've got a long time. Say something outrageous."

A punk rocker replied: "You dirty bastard."

"Go on. Again!" said Grundy.

"You dirty f---er".

"What?"

"What a f---ing rotter."

At that, Grundy said: "Well, that's it for tonight."

He told the viewers: "I'll be seeing you soon."

Then, turning to the group, he said: "I hope I'm not seeing you again."

As the Thames switchboard became jammed, viewers rang the Mirror to voice their complaints.

Lorry driver James Holmes, 47, heard the swearing being listened to by his eight-year-old son Lee and kicked in the screen of his TV.

"It blew up and I was knocked backwards," he said. "But I was so angry and disgusted with this filth that I took a swing with my boot."

"I can swear as well as anyone, but I don't want this sort of muck coming into my home at teatime."

"It's the stupidest thing I have ever done. I read to think what my wife will do when she

finds out about it."

Mr. Holmes, of Beechfield, Walk, Waltham Forest, Herts, added: "I am not a violent person, but I would like to have got hold of Grundy."

"He should be sacked for encouraging this sort of disgusting behaviour."

Stuart Simeox, of Palmers Green, London, said: "An apology is not good enough. Something more needs to be done."

Police Constable Alan Brown, of Hemel Hempstead, Herts., who was watching the programme with his wife and daughters, aged two and six, said: "Grundy was encouraging them to say the words."

### Sorry

Thames TV's current affairs controller, John Edwards, will hold an inquiry today.

He said: "Because the programme was live, we could not foresee the language which would be used. We apologise to all viewers."

An IBA spokesman said: "It's inexcusable. We are sorry."

Punk rock groups and their fans despise "establishment" pop stars and specialise in songs that preach destruction.

They dress as outrageously as possible with the aim of causing maximum shock.

## WHAT THEY SAID

THIS is some of the language that turned the air blue

GRUNDY: I am told that that group have received £40,000 from a record company. Doesn't that seem to be slightly opposed to an anti-materialistic way of life.

SEX PISTOL: The more the merrier...

GRUNDY: Tell me more then.

PISTOL: F---ing spent it didn't we?

GRUNDY: What about you girls behind...

GIRL: I've always wanted to meet you.

GRUNDY: Did you really. We'll meet afterwards shall we.

PISTOL: You dirty old man. You dirty old man.

GRUNDY: Go on, you've got a long time. Say something outrageous.

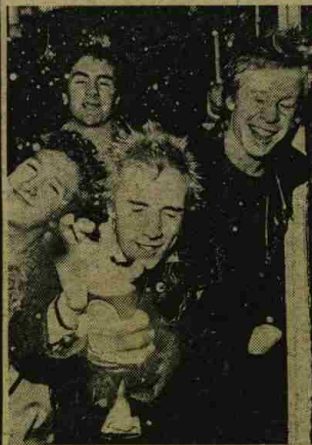
PISTOL: You dirty bastard.

GRUNDY: Go on. Again.

PISTOL: You dirty f---er.

GRUNDY: What?

PISTOL: What a f---ing rotter.



FOUL-MOUTHED: The Sex Pistols