

大学英语阅读训练丛书

# 英美时文选读

## 政治分册

苏立群 主编

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主 编 苏文颖  
副主编 张志远 郑桂泉

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# 前 言

随着社会的发展,人类越来越需要相互之间的交流和沟通。为了帮助读者对西方社会意识形态、社会制度、科技发展、日常生活的进一步了解,编者收集了大量的文献资料,精选成这套丛书。目的在帮助读者提高英语水平的同时,有机会进一步了解西方的政治、经济、文化、科技以及社会生活等诸多方面。为了使读者更有效地提高阅读速度和增强对原文的理解,在每篇文章之后安排了生词表,并对文章中的语法现象、复杂的句子结构和理解的难点作了详细的注释。

本套丛书分为五本:政治、经济、文化、科技和社会生活。可以满足不同层次英语水平读者的需要。对中级英语水平的读者,可以作为快速阅读理解的材料,尤其对准备参加四、六级考试和研究生入学考试的读者,不失为一套很好的阅读理解训练的资料;对高级英语水平的读者,可以提供一个更多了解西方社会的窗口。

本套丛书,取材广泛,注重介绍西方社会的同时,考虑了文章的可读性和趣味性。可以帮助读者在轻松愉快的状态下,掌握更多的知识,增加更多的见地。

本书由苏文颖主编,副主编张志远、郑桂泉。参加本书编写的还有赵建国、张彩凤、许健玲、苏荣国、田德明、赵越、郑冀、韩晓华、韩晓果。

鉴于编者水平所限,书中存在的缺点和错误,恳请指正。

编 者

1997年6月于燕园

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## Getting Away With Murder

On the night of October 26, 1974, Joey Fournier, age 17, was working alone at the Marston Street Mobil service station in Lawrence, Mass. Three men drove up; and two entered the gas station, brandishing knives and demanding money. Joey gave them \$276.37 and pleaded for his life<sup>1</sup>.

Minutes later, Michael Byron, one of Joey's friends, stopped by. The office floor was covered with blood. Horrified, Michael found Joey's body stuffed in a trash barrel<sup>2</sup>, his feet jammed up near his chin. He had been stabbed 19 times.

Three men—Alvin Wideman, Roosevelt Pickett and William R. Horton, Jr.—were soon apprehended. All confessed to the robbery, but not to Joey's murder. Prosecutors were convinced, however, that the actual killer was Horton. He had previously served three years in South Carolina for assault with intent to murder.

In May 1975, the trio was convicted of armed robbery<sup>3</sup> and first-degree murder. In many states, they could have forfeited their lives. But a few weeks earlier, Gov. Michael Dukakis had vetoed a death penalty bill<sup>4</sup>.

Still, a first-degree murder conviction in Massachusetts was supposed to mean a mandatory sentence of life in prison, with no possibility of parole. The Fournier family, devastated by their loss, took comfort in the prosecutor's assurance that Joey's killers would never again walk the streets.

Under a little-known state law, however, such first-degree killers were eligible for<sup>5</sup> unguarded, 48-hour furloughs from prison. On June 6, 1986, William Horton was released from the Northeastern Correctional Center in Concord. He never came back.

ABOUT 7 : 30 P. M. on April 3, 1987, Clifford Barnes, 28, heard footsteps in his house in Oxon Hill, Md. He called out, thinking Angela Miller, his fiancée, had returned early from a wedding party<sup>6</sup>. Instead, a man suddenly loomed before him, pointing a gun. It was William Horton.

For the next seven hours, a laughing Horton punched, pistolwhipped and kicked him. Horton also cut him 22 times across his midsection.

Later that night, Angela returned. Bound and gagged, Cliff listened in helpless horror to Angi's screams as Horton savagely attacked her. For four hours, she was assaulted, tied up, and twice raped.

Finally Cliff broke free and staggered to a neighbor's home for help. When Horton went to check on him, Angi cut herself loose and escaped through a window. Now panicked, Horton stole Cliff's car and fled. After a high-speed police chase<sup>7</sup>, he was wounded in a shoot-out and captured. \*

IN LAWRENCE, Susan Forrest, a young reporter for the Eagle-Tribune, was covering Horton's rampage and capture. But one chilling detail puzzled her. "The question everyone wants answered," she wrote, "is how a cold-blooded murderer<sup>8</sup> ever got out in the first place."

Forrest's editor, Dan Warner, encouraged her to find out. But she ran into<sup>9</sup> a bureaucratic stone wall. Michael Fair, commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Correction, at first refused to talk to her. Then he cited the state's 1972 Criminal Offender Record Information Act, which strictly limits public access to court and prison records of convicted criminals. The law granted convicted killers a right to privacy that made their crimes virtually a state secret.

Warner and Forrest were outraged. They could not find out why Horton had been released—or how many other Hortons were walking the streets. Forrest appealed to<sup>10</sup> the governor for an interview, but was rebuffed.

Still, Susan Forrest's hard-hitting front-page stories<sup>11</sup> provoked public wrath<sup>12</sup>. And two state representatives—former police officer Larry Giordano and Joseph Hermann—introduced a bill to ban furloughs for first-degree murderers.

At the public hearing<sup>13</sup> on Giordano's bill on May 27, 1987, members of Joey Fournier's family listened as his sister, Donna Fournier Cuomo, and father, Ronald, begged lawmakers to end the furloughs. Another witness, George Chaffee of Derry, N. H., told a harrowing tale. His 44-year-old mother had been brutally beaten and murdered in 1970 by confessed Massachusetts rapist John Zukoski. Even after being convicted for second-degree murder, Zukoski became eligible for furloughs; and in September 1986 he was paroled. A few months later, Zukoski was arrested and indicted yet again for beating and raping a woman.



"How many times," Chaffee demanded, "does a person have to rape and murder before he is locked up for good?"

The victims' families made a powerful impact on everyone present. The biggest shock, however, came from the testimony of Associate Correction Commissioner Dennis Humphrey.

A sentence of "life without parole"<sup>14</sup>, Humphrey revealed, was meaningless. It was assumed that eventually everyone—even first-degree murderers like Horton—would have their sentences commuted and "get out." After only ten years, a lifer was routinely transferred to a minimum-security facility, which has no walls. There he became eligible for furloughs. At that moment, Humphrey said, such facilities held about 160 first-degree killers. Horton had been one of them; he was on his tenth weekend pass when he disappeared.

THE MASSACHUSETTS inmate-furlough program was enacted in 1972 under Gov. Francis W. Sargent, and a killer soon escaped. This stirred up a legal controversy<sup>15</sup>, but in 1976 Governor Dukakis pocket-vetoed a bill to ban furloughs for first-degree murderers. It would, he said, "cut the heart out of efforts at inmate rehabilitation."

The furlough program, in essence<sup>16</sup>, released killers on an "honor system" to see if they would stay out of trouble. This trial-and-error approach helped the governor decide when to commute, or reduce, a first-degree murder sentence, thus making a lifer eligible for parole<sup>17</sup>. On average, in Massachusetts, prisoners whose sentences are commuted from life without parole spend fewer than 19 years in prison. Governor

Dukakis, in fact, had already commuted the life sentences of 28 first-degree murderers by March 1987.

WHEN Donna Fournier Cuomo learned that Horton had been repeatedly granted furloughs, all the nightmares of her brother's death returned. At the May 27 hearing, she met other concerned women: Maureen Donovan, Joan Bamford, Joanne Pekarski and Gertrude Lavigne. They had learned that the weekend Horton fled, he'd been spotted only two blocks from Donovan's home. "It could have been my family he went after," she said.

The women circulated a petition to support Representative Giordano's furlough-ban bill. But the bill was stalled in committee by legislative allies of Governor Dukakis.

In the face of growing public opposition, the Dukakis administration made some revisions in the furlough guidelines (eligibility became 12<sup>1/2</sup> years in prison rather than ten), but defended the program relentlessly. At a news conference, bureaucrats trotted out<sup>18</sup> figures showing that relatively few killers on furlough had escaped. Human Services Secretary Philip Johnston told astonished reporters, "Don't forget that Mr. Horton had nine previous successful furloughs."

To Commissioner Fair, furloughs were a prison "management tool." Unless a lifer has hope of parole, he argued, "we would have a very dangerous population in an already dangerous system." But, critics wondered, if armed guards can't control "very dangerous" killers inside locked cells, how are unarmed citizens supposed to deal with them?

When Dukakis visited the Andover, Mass. , police station one day, furlough opponents Maureen Donovan, Joanne Pekarski and Mary Gravel got to meet with him. Gravel told the governor about her own daughter's unsolved murder<sup>19</sup>. "What if Claire's killer is caught and convicted, then furloughed?" she asked. "What do you think it would do to my family if they were walking down the street and saw this person?"

"I'd probably feel the same way you do," Dukakis responded. "But, unfortunately, it's not going to change my mind."

The governor began recounting a recent discussion with inmates' families about their grievances, but Maureen Donovan angrily interrupted. "You'll meet with prisoners' families, but you keep avoiding us."

The meeting quickly deteriorated. Dukakis explained that he hadn't asked for the power of commutation. Gravel replied, "There's no law that says you have to use it."

"If you don't like the system, you can change it," the governor said.

"Thank you very much," Donovan answered. "That's exactly what we'll do."

The encounter with Dukakis convinced the women that their best option was to put a referendum<sup>20</sup> about furloughs on the November 1988 ballot. Within weeks, they formed CAUS—Citizens Against Unsafe Society.

SUSAN FORREST had still been unable to get Horton's

records. Fed up, Dan Warner invited every newspaper editor in the state to a meeting in May 1987. There he and Forrest denounced the prisoner privacy statute and asked for support to open Horton's files. The result was a flood of articles and indignant editorials. Finally, under pressure, the state released Horton's records. These confirmed that while in prison he had a record of 11 disciplinary infractions, three drug-related<sup>21</sup>. Yet prison officials eventually gave Horton "excellent" evaluations and said "he projects a quiet sense of responsibility. "

In the months following the hearing, there were other revelations:

- Legislators learned that Horton had also been turned loose daily, with little supervision, on a work-release program. His job: to help mental patients.

- Of over 80 Massachusetts convicts listed as escaped and still at large, only four had actually "escaped." The rest simply walked away<sup>22</sup> from furloughs, prerelease centers and other minimum-security programs. These convicts included murderers, rapists, armed robbers and drug dealers.

- Commissioner Fair personally approved first-degree lifer Armand Therrien's transfer from a medium-security prison to a minimum-security one, which made him eligible for a work-release program. Therrien, a two-time murderer, walked off and vanished in December 1987.

NONE of the women of CAUS had ever been involved in grass-roots politics, and they faced an enormous job of gathering 50,525 certified voter signatures by early December 1987,

the deadline for the 1988 ballot. Before long<sup>23</sup>, they were regular fixtures on talk shows, and other volunteers came forward.

Many of the CAUS members, like the Fourniers and Gravels, were families of murdered children. George Hanna, a retired police officer<sup>24</sup>, was an early recruit. His son, George Jr., a state trooper, was shot and killed while on duty<sup>25</sup> in 1983. Marion and John Spinney's daughter, Karen, was stabbed to death in 1975 by an armed robber who was on furlough. The man who killed Jim and Paula Danforth's 19-year-old daughter, Paula Marie, in 1986 was also given a meaningless sentence of "life without parole."

The signature drive became their crusade. Working 15-hour days, the core group of 20 people canvassed the state, haunting shopping malls, bingo halls, and churches. Paula Danforth, eight months pregnant, helped corral a thousand signatures in one day.

A Massachusetts House committee held further hearings. Families of other victims told their stories, including Vivianne Ruggiero, whose 27-year-old husband, John, a police officer, had been shot in the head five times without provocation<sup>26</sup>. John left his widow with two small children. Meanwhile, Vivianne testified, John's convicted killer, Danile Ferreira, sentenced to life without parole, had married while on one of 33 furloughs. "Isn't he lucky that he can go on with his life?" Vivianne said bitterly. "I wish I could have a furlough—one weekend, or one hour, when my husband's death is not no my mind."

Cliff and Angi Barnes, Horton's victims, also testified. "I'm tired of<sup>27</sup> hearing about the rights of prisoners," Angi said. "As far as I'm concerned, they gave up<sup>28</sup> their rights when they took another person's life." Cliff was asked about statistics touting the success rate of the furlough program. "So we're expendable," he retorted. "Is that what they're saying?"

After the hearings, CAUS members worked feverishly to collect and deliver signed petitions to city halls across the state. Late at night on December 1, 1987, nine bone-weary<sup>29</sup> volunteers crowded into Joan Bamford's living room to tally the results. They needed 50,525 signatures. They had 52,407. There were screams, tears and hugs all around.

IN THE Waning days of 1987, CAUS members were glad they had taken matters out of the politicians' hands. The state's House passed Giordano's bill overwhelmingly. But in the Senate, Royal Bolling, Sr., used parliamentary stalling tactics to kill it as the legislative session ended.

A month later, Bolling received a standing ovation for his efforts from 400 inmates at Norfolk prison. "I'm always glad to see some of my old friends," he said, smiling. "I hope I will continue to deserve your good will."

The occasion for this strange episode was "Legislative Awareness Day," an annual event that reminds inmates in Massachusetts they are allowed to vote. An inmate leader urged fellow convicts to register and vote against the referendum banning furloughs. A deputy secretary of state, Richard Shibley, brought in hundreds of absentee-ballot applications.

Although the CAUS referendum was virtually assured of voter approval in November, Representative Giordano reintroduced his furlough ban bill to halt the program even sooner. And, as spring arrived, Dukakis came under mounting public pressure to end the furlough program himself before it hurt his Presidential campaign<sup>30</sup>.

On March 22, 1988, at a packed news conference<sup>31</sup>, the governor promised not to veto Giordano's bill. Asked if he was personally in favor of furloughs, Dukakis answered, "That's irrelevant. The fact of the matter is that the people of this Commonwealth and the legislature aren't." He added he still wanted some alternative program to help him commute the sentences of first-degree murderers. On April 28, after the legislature passed the furlough ban by a wide margin, the governor signed it into law. (In preparing this article, Reader's Digest requested an interview with Governor Dukakis, but he declined.)

For Maureen Donovan, CAUS's feisty co-founder, the work to reform the system has just begun. With Dukakis seeking an alternative to the furlough program, CAUS has announced its next goal will be to restrict the governor's power to commute life sentences.

For the Lawrence Eagle-Tribune, an effort to uncover hidden facts became a crusade. After nearly 200 stories by Susan Forrest, Barbara Walsh and other determined reporters, the furlough system was finally exposed to public scrutiny. On March 31, 1988, the Eagle-Tribune received journalism's high-

est honor; the Pulitzer Prize.

For Donna Fournier Cuomo, the issue remains hauntingly, harshly personal. On the 13th anniversary of her brother's murder, she visited the now-deserted gas station<sup>32</sup> in Lawrence. She cried softly as she stared at the weeds and empty windows, symbols of a terrible waste. Joey, she thought, would have been 30 years old.

“Someone asked, ‘Are you doing this for your brother?’” Donna once testified. “I guess I am. . . because if I didn’t—he’d have died for nothing. And then you couldn’t live with yourself, because justice would not have been served.”

## Vocabulary

1. brandish [ˈbrændɪʃ] *vi.* 挥, 舞(刀剑等)
2. plead [pli:d] *vi.* 恳求
3. stuff [stʌf] *vt.* 塞住
4. jam [dʒæm] *vi.* 挤进, 塞满
5. chin [tʃɪn] *n.* 下巴, 额
6. stab [stæb] *vt.* 刺入, 刺伤
7. apprehend [ˌæpriˈhend] *vt.* 逮捕, 拘押
8. prosecutor [ˈprɒsɪkjʊtə] *n.* 检察官, 起诉人
9. previous [ˈpri:vjəs] *adj.* 以前的, 先前的 ~ly *adv.* 预先, 在以前
10. serve [sɜ:v] *vt.* 服(刑)
11. trio [ˈtri:əu] *n.* 三人(小组)
12. forfeit [ˈfɔ:fit] *vt.* (因犯罪而)失去(生命)
13. mandatory [ˈmændətəri] *adj.* 强迫的, 强制性的



14. parole [pə'reul] *n.* (美)假释许可,假释出狱
15. devastate ['devəsteit] *vt.* 毁灭性地打击
16. unguarded ['ʌn'gɑ:did] *adj.* 不留神的,不谨慎的
17. furlough ['fæləu] *n.* (军人,官吏)休假
18. fiancée [fiən'sei] *n.* 未婚妻
19. loom [lu:m] *vi.* 朦胧出现
20. punch [pʌntʃ] *vt.* 用拳头打,殴打
21. pistolwhip ['pistl-hwip] *vt.* 用手枪柄打(尤指头部)
22. bound ['baund] *adj.* 绑着的,被束缚的
23. gag [gæg] *vt.* 塞住……口
24. savage ['sævidʒ] *adj.* 凶残的,粗暴的,野蛮的 ~ly *adv.*
25. rape [reip] *vt.* 强奸
26. stagger ['stægə] *vi.* 蹒跚,摇摇晃晃
27. panic ['pænik] *vt. /vi.* 使恐慌,使惊慌
28. fled [fled] 为 flee 的过去式,过去分词,逃跑
29. rampage [ræm'peidʒ] *n.* 狂暴行为
30. cite ['sait] *vt.* 引用,引证
31. convict [kən'vikt] *vt.* 宣告……有罪,使认罪
32. outrage ['autreidʒ] *vt.* 引起……的义愤,凌辱,伤害
33. rebuff [ri'bʌf] *vt.* 拒绝
34. provoke [prə'vauk] *vt.* 触怒,促发,煽动
35. wrath [rɔ:θ] *n.* 愤怒
36. harrowing ['hærəuiŋ] *adj.* 悲惨的,折磨人的
37. inmate ['inmeit] *n.* 同狱犯人
38. controversy ['kɒntrəvɜ:si] *n.* 辩论,论战
39. rehabilitation ['ri:hə'bili'teɪʃən] *n.* 悔过自新
40. lifer ['laifə] *n.* 无期徒刑犯