Criminal Justice As a Case Study in Ambivalent Responses

Question: In general, do you think the criminal justice system in the U.S. is biased in favor of blacks, or is it biased against blacks, or does it generally give blacks fair treatment?

Blacks
- Biased in favor: 0.5%
- Biased against: 13%
- Fair Treatment: 16%
- DK/NA: 71%

Whites
- Biased in favor: 10%
- Biased against: 12%
- Fair Treatment: 47%
- DK/NA: 30%

Question: In general, do you think the American criminal justice system is biased in favor of the person accused of a crime, is biased against the person accused of a crime, or does the criminal justice system generally treat the accused person fairly?

Blacks
- Biased in favor: 20%
- Biased against: 6%
- Fair Treatment: 35%
- DK/NA: 39%

Whites
- Biased in favor: 14%
- Biased against: 25%
- Fair Treatment: 41%
- DK/NA: 21%

September 5-6, 1995

Question: Do you think the American justice system is biased against black people?

GALLUP
- Yes: 55%
- No: 33%

October 5-7, 1995

Question: Thinking about our criminal justice system, do you think most people accused of a crime in the U.S. are treated fairly or unfairly by the criminal justice system?

YANKELOVICH
- Fairly: 66%
- Unfairly: 45%

June 2, 1995