

## Michael Franti & Spearhead "Crime To Be Broke In America"

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### "Crime To Be Broke In America"

I take the needle off the record  
And shove it in my arm  
Whenever I feel life is  
Comin' on too strong  
They left me in a clinic fulla  
Cynical motha fuckin' bureaucrats  
And other kinda ding bats

Livin on the tracks  
The tracks in my arm said  
It all depends which side the tracks your on.  
Tellin' me what to wear  
Tellin me cut my hair  
And tryin to convince me that they  
Really really care  
All about my health and about my wealth  
But still they built the Stealth  
'cause everybody's  
Just lookin out for they self

So then I ask 'em  
Can I have a clean needle  
"Hell no that's illegal!"

*[Chorus]*

'Cause it's a crime to be broke in America!  
And it's a crime to smoke dank in America!

*[repeat]*

"Yeah hit those drums now"  
They lockin' brother's in the poorhouse  
Who can't afford Moorhouse  
Politicians nervous  
It's the only free service they provide  
You wanna go inside  
There's a hot meal waitin' for ya  
A deal we can score ya  
On a bed for a night or two  
Or three or four months.

They say they lockin' us up in cells  
To protect us from ourselves  
It smells like they got anotha  
Plan in store house  
Or should I say warehouse  
Fulla niggas and other misfits  
That couldn't turn tricks in the courthouse  
It's a justice whorehouse

*[Chorus]*

It's a crime to be broke in America!  
And it's a crime to be Black in America!

But there's a mutiny on the bounty  
In ever single county  
We remember Attica  
But don't forget to pat a few  
Other on the back as a matter of fact  
Sister Asatta Shakur and Geronimo Pratt  
'cause Amnesty international  
Is fightin' for political  
But if your analytical  
You know it's much more critical than that  
Percentages black is really, really whack  
Can I kick a few facts yes?

Sx percent in college  
From livin on the block  
Twenty five percent in prison  
The school of hard knocks  
Fifty percent in poverty  
Is livin on the rocks  
Five hundred brothas on a death row box

The punishment is capital  
For those who lack in capital  
Because a public defender  
Can't remember the last time  
That a brother wasn't treated like an animal.

They say they blame it on a song  
When someone kills a cop  
What music did they listen to  
When they bombed Iraq?  
Give me one example so I can take a sample  
No need to play it backwards  
If you wanna hear the devil  
Cause music's not the problem  
It didn't cause the bombin'  
But maybe they should listen  
To the songs of people starving..

*[Chorus]*

'Cause it's a Crime to be broke in America!

It's a crime to smoke dank in America!

It's a crime to be black in America!

It's a crime to be black in America!

It's a crime to be Puerto Rican

African

Native American

Asian Hatian

A Woman

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