

I Never Thought

I never thought I'd look back on
Doing time in the 70s and 80s and
Think of it as the Good Old Days.

I never thought the clock would
Run backwards, that I'd have less
Chance of parole after serving 30 years,
Than 20.

I never thought that America, the
Land of the Free, would become Amerika,
The land of extraordinary renditions,
Supermaxes and imprisonment without trials.

I never thought that liberty-loving
Americans would allow our country to become
A gulag-ridden police state supporting a
Prison industrial complex as a means of
Economic development in rural areas.

I never thought our court system would
Become the means of our oppression
Rather than the constitutionally-mandated
Defender of the weak and down trodden.

That's just it, I never thought . . .

Harlan Richards