

Thoughts From THE HEART
BY
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"IT'S GETTING HOT IN HERE!!"

THE UNITED STATES HAS 2.6 MILLION PRISONERS IN FEDERAL & STATE PRISONS MORE THAN ANY OTHER COUNTRY - WHILE OUR POPULATION IS ONLY FIVE PERCENT OF THE WORLD, - WE HAVE 30 PERCENT OF WORLD'S TOTAL INCARCERATION AND THE PROBLEM IS GETTING WORSE.

THE STATE OF OHIO PRISON POPULATION IS VERY UNIQUE: IT IS COMPRISE OF [OLD LAW PRISONERS] AND [NEW LAW PRISONERS] - ["OLD LAW PRISONERS ARE THOSE WHO WERE SENTENCE TO "INDEFINITE SENTENCES" WHO ARE SUBJECT FOR RELEASE ONLY AFTER - SEEING THE - OHIO - PAROLE - BOARD] - FOR EXAMPLE: AN OLD LAW PRISONER WHO HAS COMMITTED A FIRST DEGREE FELONY' OTHER THAN MURDER - SENTENCES RANGE FROM - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 - 9 - 10 - 11 - 12 - 13 - 14 - 15 - TO 25 YEARS - AND CAN SERVE THE WHOLE 25 OR MORE IF THE SENTENCE IS RAN CONSECUTIVELY.] AN NEW LAW

PRISONER IS NOT REQUIRE TO SEE THE PAROLE BOARD IN OHIO - THEY ARE NOW SENTENCE TO DEFINITE SENTENCES - [FLAT TIME] - WHICH TOOK AFFECT IN 1996 - FOR EXAMPLE: OTHER THAN MURDER - FOR CRIMES UNDER FLAT TIME [A] FIRST DEGREE FELONY SENTENCE RANGE - ~~From~~ - 3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10 - FLAT - 3 YEARS BEING THE MINIMUM OF YEARS - 10 BEING THE MAXIMUM]

SO NOW OHIO HAS PRISONERS WHO HAVE COMMITTED SIMILAR CRIMES TOGETHER, WHO ARE DOING IN DEFINITE SENTENCES AND WHO ARE DOING DEFINITE SENTENCES. THERE ARE STILL 5,000 TO 7,000 OLD LAW - - - - PRISONERS LANGUISHING IN OHIO PRISONS, MOST "NOT ALL" ARE WELL BEHAVED, HAVE COMPLETED ALL REQUIRED PROGRAMS, CAUSE NO TROUBLE AND HAVE SERVED 20 YEARS OR MORE. YET THE PAROLE BOARD GIVE THEM TIME OR ARE MAKING THEM OUT ON THEIR SENTENCES. FOR WHAT PURPOSE?? MAYBE TO PRESERVE THEIR POWERFUL - HIGH - PAYING PAROLE MEMBERS JOBS AND OR TO ENSURE A PEACEFUL WELL BEHAVED CARE OF PRISONERS?? - WELL "THAT'S - HAS - NOT - HAPPEN."

DUE TO NEW LAW PRISONERS WHO HAVE AN "OUT DATE" [RELEASE DATE BY LAW] WHICH CANNOT BE CHANGE SHORT OF COMMITTING A NEW CRIME WHILE IN PRISON - [COMES THAT DATE - BYE - BYE.] THEY CAN GET AS MANY CONDUCT REPORTS [TICKETS] CAN ASSAULT OTHER PRISONERS AND EVEN STAFF, GO TO SOLITARY, RUN IN GANGS, COME THAT DATE - MUST BE RELEASED UNDER THE LAW. THIS IS THE REASON "NORTH CENTRAL - CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION" IS ONCE - AGAIN ON "LOCK DOWN"; THE PRISON - I'M CURRENTLY AT - IS A: MEDIUM AND - MINIMUM PRISON.

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COIN IS: IF AN "OLD LAW" PRISONER GETS ANY TYPE OF CONDUCT REPORT - 6 TO 12 MONTHS GIVEN AT HIS NEXT PAROLE BOARD HEARING - IF IT'S A FIGHT - 12 TO 18 MONTHS - GO TO SOLITARY - 24 MONTHS - GIVEN AT YOUR NEXT PAROLE HEARING - AND ANY ASSAULT ON STAFF CONDUCT REPORTS - 5 YEARS!!! OR MAX OUT DATE. [FOR EXAMPLE: IF I GET INTO AN ALTERCATION WITH A NEW LAW PRISONER - WE BOTH GO TO SOLITARY - [15 DAYS] I - [REDACTED] -

ALSO GET A REPORT PUT IN MY PAROLE BOARD FILE- SO WHEN I DO GO BEFORE THE PAROLE BOARD- I'M FURTHER SANCTION WITH FURTHER PUNITIVE MEASURES 24 MORE MONTHS ON ADDITION TO WHATEVER THE PAROLE BOARD GIVES ME- SO I COULD FACE UP TO 48 MONTHS. SOME OLD LAW PRISONERS HAVE 25 YEAR'S TAIL - 30-35-40-50-60-75 TAIL'S - [TAIL MEANING "MAX-OUT DATES"] AND THE OLD LAW PRISONER SECURITY LEVEL CAN BE INCREASED; AND SENT TO A HIGHER SECURITY AND CONTROL PRISON. ["FAIR OR UNFAIR"]

TENSION ??? TO SAY THE LEAST AMONG PRISONERS HERE IN OHIO - ALONG WITH THE "SEVERE-OVER-CROWDING IN ALL OHIO PRISONS IS A RECEIPT FOR DISORDER.

THANK GOD I NO LONGER HAVE TO STAND BEFORE THE OHIO PAROLE BOARD - I'M MAXED OUT ON MY SENTENCE IN 24 MONTHS - NOT THAT I WANT IT THIS WAY - BUT IT IS WHAT IT IS. EVEN THOUGH THIS CURRENT TWO LAW'S SITUATION EXIST IN THE STATE OF OHIO - ~~FAIR OR NOT~~ - ONE MUST TAKE "RESPONSIBILITY" FOR HIS ACTIONS AND CONDUCT. AND LEARN FROM THIS NIGHT MARE.