

Thoughts From THE HEART

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2100 HRS:

"A LOST CAUSE - THE PAROLE SYSTEM IN OHIO - ^{AN} NOT SO EASY ANSWER

Would IT SURPRISE you to know that THE
Director of Ohio Prisons GARY MOHR, IS
Sympathetic to the concerns of old LAW
PRISONERS?? AT A RECENT meeting with families
of old LAW PRISONERS. DIR. MOHR showed
A SURPRISING UNDERSTANDING. MORE IMPORTANTLY,
MOHR IS ADVOCATING FOR THE RELEASE OF
MORE old LAW PRISONERS ON PAROLE. MOHR
AGREED THAT THE CURRENT PAROLE SYSTEM
IS UNFAIR BECAUSE IT LEADS PRISONERS TO
BELIEVE they will get out IF they do
CERTAIN THINGS, like complete programming
AND AVOID CONDUCT REPORTS. BUT THE NEXT
TIME they see the BOARD, old-LAWS ARE
GIVEN 4-5 MORE years without EXPLANATION.
AND NO PROMISE OF EVER GETTING OUT. MOHR
ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE SYSTEM IS TERRIBLE FOR
MORALE.

Such a Compassionate Attitude Comes As A Shock To Those Who Would View Mohr As One Of A Solid Block. And The Parole Board Opposed To Any Breaks For Old Law Prisoners. [So called Old-law are those sentenced before 1996, when the law created a new class of prisoners serving "Flat Time" and not subject to seeing the Parole Board] - Mohr said he believes old-law need to be given a chance and is advocating for that position with Gov. Kasich. But like the public, there are many in Kasich's administration and on the Parole Board who are uncomfortable with the idea of murderers and sex offenders, robbers being released. As we all know, the public tends to believe that every prisoner is still the violent person he/she was on the day he/she committed their crime. - That 20, 25, 30 years have not changed them. No one can know with certainty whether a person has changed or will re-offend. Only [GOD] knows that. No kindness is expected from the APA [Adult Parole Board]. Now that they have reverted back to basing their decisions not on guidelines provided by the state legislature which "might" add fairness, but on their gut feelings. The guidelines were supposed to create a fair process - but the APA bound its own hand by changing them over and over - so that prisoners who had satisfied

ONE GUIDELINE FOUND THEMSELVES WITH AN ENHANCED
GUIDELINE REQUIRING EVEN MORE TIME TO BE SERVED.
IT WAS A "CARROT AND STICK" ROUTINE IF YOU WILL.
WITH LAWSUIT FILED AND PRISONERS WINNING THEIR SUITS
ORDERING THE APA TO PLACE PRISONERS IN THEIR PROPER
GUIDELINE RANGES - THE APA DROPPED FOLLOWING ANY
GUIDELINES AND WENT BACK TO THE OLD SYSTEM OF NO
ACCOUNTABILITY FOR THEM MAKING THEIR DECISIONS
TO RELEASE AN PRISONER PLUS WITH A \$100,000 DOLLAR
SALARY A YEAR, I WOULD NOT ALSO BE TO
FAIR ON THESE RELEASES OF OLD LAW PRISONERS.
IT ALWAYS COMES DOWN TO THE MONEY.
ALWAYS. AS LONG AS OLD LAW PRISONERS ARE
LOCKED UP, THEY THE [APA HAVE A JOB] "FOR LIFE"
DON'T GET ME WRONG - SOME SHOULD NEVER GET
OUT - BUT THAT'S A FEW RARE CASES. NO CHECKS
AND BALANCE SYSTEM FOR APA.

"THEY ARE OUT OF CONTROL"