

3-11-12

"CRIMINAL HISTORY"

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An interesting subject that I discuss with some of my co-prisoners is what sort of people should or should not be in prison; who should just NEVER get out... who should NEVER have been incarcerated in the first place.

Most all of us favor rehabilitations-over-corrections but all must admit that at some point, we, as a society, need to give up on some people and keep society safe from them. Even the most hardened criminals recognize those who are completely lost. We go round and round on who, why, when etc... However: The issue is WHAT is the criteria the world at large should use to make such a major determination. My group ~~is~~ agrees on at least some criteria -

- 1) IQ
- 2) USE OF THE 'MMPI' OR SIMILAR PSYCHOLOGICAL DISORDER TEST
- 3) LIFESTYLE FACTORS: FAMILY, JOB, FRIENDS, MORTGAGE ETC.

But through all our arguments & discussions - the use of one's "CRIMINAL HISTORY" should BE THE LAST-LEAST USED criteria. 'Why?' is a good question, but the answer is easy.

A criminal history is pretty much all the U.S. of A uses to determine your incarceration future. It is deeply flawed (I.E. CALIFORNIA'S 3-Strikes) and completely ignores all of the good one does or has done OR HAS THE POTENTIAL to do.

A 'CRIMINAL HISTORY' is only a window to where we went wrong, not to where we went right. It is too easy to throw away one persons life over a petty theft, a gang affiliation or (worse).

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And while its true not every priest, banker, Rotarian
or accountant is 'good'; NOT every gang-banger,
drug-dealer, child molester, or murderer is 'BAD'

No simple overhaul of our exploding prison system can
be made; It really has nothing to do with prisons
themselves; IT STARTS with the (in)Justice' system
and low Judges, Persecutors (yes - its spelled right), public
pretenders, and the laws that get passed in the
name of FEAR, and ends with society saying
"yes - we can save this person!" instead of special
interests saying "We need more bodies for our prison-Industry."

Wake up AMERICA! We are doing to 2 million
OF OUR OWN MEN, WOMEN & CHILDREN WHAT STALIN,
HITLER, POL-POT, BABY DOC, SADDAM HUSSAIN & OTHERS HAVE
DONE TO THEIRS. HOW MANY MUST BE TAKEN? HOW
MANY FAMILIES TORN APART?

if we look at all facets of a human condition before
we decide a punishment, those who just made a
mistake will get help & those who seem beyond
repair will get incarcerated AND STILL GET HELP!

I'm JUST SAYIN...

Andy