

JUST A LITTLE PREGNANT

The "Non-violent" mantra has become a politically correct position for politicians and misguided prison reformers. These people believe, if the so called "Non-violent" are removed from prisons, the problem of dysfunctional prisons will be solved. In other words, the system is just a little pregnant.

Associate Professor Andrea Roth, U.C. Berkeley School of Law (1), has taken a more realistic bite out of the reality apple, when she says "Obama's focus on criminal justice reform is welcome and arguably unprecedented, rhetoric suggesting that we can curtail mass incarceration through leniency only toward 'non-violent drug offenders' is flawed and counter-productive." The current judicial and punishment driven prison systems are not serving society. Both systems assure "non-violent" offenders will become violent, and the violent offenders will become more violent. Addressing one faction of a dysfunctional system, is like sweeping the dust under the carpet. For judicial reformation to take place, people have to understand, a system established to rid society of crime, actually contributes to the crime problem.

Psychologists advise, and anyone with a functioning brain knows, severe punishment leaves psychological scars, and is detrimental to the psychological development of children. Yet, politicians are still convinced more punishment is the answer to the war-on-crime. Victim advocate groups demand more punishment, which in the long run produces more victims.

Philosophers have professed for years, the futility and toxic addiction of punishment: Rousseau, in A Discourse on Political Economy -1758, wrote, "The severity of penalties is only a vain resource, to substitute terror for that respect which they have no means of obtaining." Emerson, in "Compensation" essays, -1841, wrote "Crime and punishment grow out of one stem." Nietzsche, in the Genealogy of Morals -1887, wrote "Punishment hardens and numbs, it produces concentration, it sharpens the consciousness of alienation, it strengthens the power of resistance."

Misguided advocates professing "Non-violent" reform are doing more harm, than good. The "Non-violent" mantra fosters further prejudice toward those with violent, serious, or sexual, brands. Demagogues have used "violent offender" scare tactics for years, as a means to their financial ends.

In recent media, these scare tactics backfired. With the federal court's order to reduce the prison population, California was found short on prisoner/slave firefighters, whom were billed as "non-violent". To fill the firefighter void, knowing the so called "violent" prisoners were not all that violent, California proposed to put the "violent; now, not so violent" on the fireline, however the well conditioned public up-roared "NO VIOLENT PRISONERS!" California had done such a good job of scaring the citizenry, they are now scrambling to find prisoner/slave firefighters. The fox did too good of a job, describing all chickens as dangerous.

Instead of preaching "Non-violent" reform, let's get real and demand "JUDICIAL AND PRISON" reform.

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