

Date: 8/17/2022 6:43:35 PM

Subject: Prison Profiteering (

While Prison profiteering is been mentioned in diverse ways, and in diverse prison newsletters. Guess what? We have Prison Profiteering right in this system, keep on reading, you'll see. I have been waiting for an article to be written about the latest news on the issue of electronic tablets for prison inmates across the country. Since I haven't seen it, I'm writing this article that I wished somebody would write to bring light on that issue, so bare with me, and if there's anything that I've missed, will someone post it either on this site or on one of the prisoner-accessible sites? In the beginning, USA TODAY have written many articles from around 2015 to 2017 on "inmates tablets" the pros and cons, and USA Today is where I first saw it and started to read it in the paper; the benefits for inmates, and the paybacks for the DOCs around the country. I want to thank USA TODAY's staff writers for pushing the issue that made it easier for most prisoners to have tablets in their possession, because it was an important issue for us inmates; this is almost as important a claim that could be based on the first Amendment rights of an inmate, and most importantly, it continues to be a First Amendment right. I haven't seen any new reports on the development of how tablets affect the inmates today. So I am going to write something on the effects and challenges of the use of the tablets in the Wisconsin DOC and the possible violations that may exist! If you seen something that I haven't, please speak up; or write it up because this new electronic protocol is rich, and the legal and personal ramifications; and the First Amendment is right in the middle of it all. We inmates must know that we have the right to read and write on the tablets, whether emails or otherwise, as long as the writings does not pose a threat to someone, or breaking administrative rules. One of the problems that we inmates in Wisconsin experienced in the use of the tablets is the "blocking" of text-editors, like the clock, or editors in games like the OpenSudoku where we can write texts, to copy and paste and save these texts; again as long the texts are not a threat to someone, we should be able to write them. But we know that DOC officials said that " it is the vendor" whose doing this, at least that's what I've been told. Another concern that I have is RACHEL!

If you don't know R.A.C.H.E.L. stands for Remote Area Community Hotspot for Education and Learning.

RACHEL is a combination of freely available software and content modules that makes it easier to bring online educational materials into places with limited, or no internet access. A perfect platform for the American prisoner who want to learn, and self-help.)

The content is available in multiple languages and can be customized to suit local needs.

RACHEL was designed by Dr Khan of Khan Academy,

(racheloffline.org). RACHEL has all of the educational books in the school at your institutions and more! RACHEL also has videos from (Tedtalk), and videos from professors from various universities around the globe which can teach one every thing from "Introduction" to computer programming to horticulture, and a host of other trades! RACHEL can also translate any text or textbook to any language in the world. And RACHEL is compatible with Android and Linux, which means that our tablets are ready for RACHEL, and we have the space on our hard drives for RACHEL!

When I asked why we do not have RACHEL on the tablets? DOC administrative officials said that we do not have RACHEL because the "vendor of the tablets" or ACCESS, AND KEEFE GROUP does not want us to have it. As a litigator, I see this response as shallow, and a possible violation of the First Amendment rights. And the question, begged to be answered is: "Why is the vendor is in charge of what we should have on the tablets?" Do we have full ownership of the tablets? Is the DOC the entity that write the rules for property ownership? Then, it occurred to me that there's the problem of hard drive space. Hard drive space means that: to the benefits of the DOCs if you have too much other things on the tablet, educational, or otherwise, you will probably have less space for other things like music and games; and that is where their "BREAD AND BUTTER" is "Music and Games." To add insult to injury we do have the Union Supply catalogs on our tablets, these also bring a payback to Wisconsin DOC, but this money for canteen and property items go to California, until the Wisconsin legislature made laws that bring some of the money back to Wisconsin, adding J.L. Marcus to the list of vendors. Is there anyone in Wisconsin who could sell us food (canteen) securely? Currently, we get up to half of our canteen order are OUT OF STOCK, every week something is out of stock, sometimes the every day use items remain OUT OF STOCK, for months on end. Currently, were out of stock for: Rice, cheese, ramen noodles, coffee, because the trucks are coming from California! RACHEL is a competition for the vendors and the DOCs. But to the benefits of the inmates, if we have more educational materials on the tablets, we would have less time for other junks like music and games. RACHEL is the perfect mini-search-engine (google like) for the American inmates who cannot log into Google, and the ideal tool for prisoners who want to learn. Remember that the DOCS tell the public that we inmates are in prison for "REHABILITATION", and rehabilitation costs money to the taxpayers, and education is a big part of that "REHABILITATION". Note that the games available on the tablets are highly addictive: addiction and rehabilitation can't be healthy on the same landscape, can it be? Most inmates are not aware of the power of the tablet, and its use. That tablet is a phone, a radio, TV, video player alarm clock, calculator, and a library all at the same time! People who are familiar with computers knew these facts even in the 80s. One inmate who does not have a tablet was surprised when he learned that one can use the tablets to send text messages or emails, he vowed to immediately purchase one. Since we're on the email subject: We at Redgranite Correctional have been having difficulties with our love ones receiving the invite to our emails---we were told that it was a problem that has to be fixed by Corrlinks the provider of the protocol, and our love ones must be the ones to call Corrlinks, and Corrlinks have no direct phone number to call; leaving our love ones censored, who are not computer literate to access Corrlinks, or send emails on the internet. I see a possible First Amendment violation there too. It has been widely circulated that in county jail like Dane (Madison), and Racine the jail inmates has access to many other materials like the Wisconsin State Journal freely. We in prison have no access to such things. These modules and things, if available to us on the tablets will not pose no threat to the public or staffs in the DOCS; on the contrary these tools will pacify the American prisoners greatly, and reduce illegal activities which can help the whole Wisconsin DOC, since they are brutality short on security staff! And adding these free-bees to our tablets would shorten library trips, since they (WDOC) are extremely short on staff; free stuff off the internet, such as one's local newspapers and Racheloffline.org will need to be updated once a month in most cases.

Be aware that RACHEL, and OpenSudoku are free softwares, freely available on the internet. One piece of wisdom, when you see softwares begin with the word "OPEN" it means also OPEN TO manipulation and modification, AS IN OPEN SOURCE! These software engineers don't mind if one changes the source code to make it do something else, or in most cases make it better, except one rule--one cannot change it, without publishing the change! So no one can block it, or restraint you from using it. It would improbable that a judge would let us prisoners have access to the source code; but such tools as RACHEL, and OpenSudoku shall be fully available to us, text-editors and all. These rules of OpenSource also apply to the vendors who are selling us manipulated versions of music player softwares, and games, and other stuff. There is also the copyright issue related to the music libraries that are sold to us. Notice that many of those songs are recorded from live concerts, and we have ended up paying \$1.95 per song. I have seen an inmate with a thousand songs or more. Today the Keefe Group, and the Wisconsin DOC charge \$8.00 per month per subscription; and when all 22,000 inmates in the Wisconsin prison system have purchased this subscription they will amassed \$ 176,000 per month time 12, for \$21,120,000 per year---you got the idea. So adding RACHEL to this price tag should be a small thing to give consumers that bringing such a large revenue to these greenback-bloodsuckers! Then there is the overrated price for a small 8 inches tablet \$ 130.00. It is said that one could buy a 12 inch tablet on Amazon for \$49.00.

Yet because we (prisoners) committed a crime is the sole reason why we pay close to 300% for the same item that free people in the world pay so much less. It will not threaten the public, or put them at risk if we pay the same price. Moreover, even if the Keefe Group and Wisconsin DOC had pledged to give every inmate a free 12 inch tablet. Those two economic giants would still make their profits over in one year looking at these numbers, do the math. Instead of giving us Wisconsin inmates RACHEL, we have been given a scrubbed version of the outdated books from The Project Gutenberg, where computer books like GNU Linux and books by Communist authors, and books by certain others that are harmless, are prohibited. Advanced mathematics books are also prohibited! Why? Money, Money, Money, Money, Money, Money! Remember that song? Money, Money; and what's so bad about it they (Wisconsin DOC) are sending all this money to St.Louis MO!

Be aware also that the vendor Keefe Group have been selling inmates in Redgranite refurbished tablets. They are not even hiding it! Could it be that someone in Redgranite is doing the refurbished on the tablets, scratching the previous inmate numbers off the tablets and issuing refurbished tablets as new ones, and keeping the money? That's nearly impossible! Cause that is a federal crime. Or the vendor Keefe Group in St. Louis is Profiteering selling used refurbished tablets for \$130.00, the price for "Brand New Tablets." In addition we inmates have been having problems with the 5 volts USB chargers sold to us. The chargers don't last long, and some inmates tablets batteries died off causing them to order a new tablet, when their tablets are barely a year old! Could it be that the vendor, the Keefe Group purposefully sells chargers that will easily breakdown to accelerate the \$130.00 for a new tablet purchase? Who is benefiting? Are the Wisconsin DOC involved, or the DAI (DIVISION OF ADULT INSTITUTIONS). Why are they Wisconsin DOC sending all this money to St. Louis. Does the Wisconsin upper-brass have investments in St. Louis Missouri? Who is benefiting from this \$21,120,000.00 going to St. Louis Missouri?

"I am from Missouri, show me the money" remember that? Could not the Wisconsin DOC take that \$21,120,000 per year by providing this service to its inmates, and put this money in the state treasury? So, no one in Wisconsin can provide this service securely? Then there is TextBehind.com, where the Wisconsin DOC spent millions of dollars to pay a Maryland company to scan our letters and fax them to their respective institutions in Wisconsin, it still takes 14 days to get a U.S. Postal Service Mail, addressed to us, slower than the horse and buggy days, and the Well Fargo Stage days! If this service was in Madison or Milwaukee we would get our mail the same day that the U.S. Postal Service delivered it. Can the Wisconsin DOC make all this happen cheaper for us inmates and still keep the money in the Wisconsin DOC's chest box? I believe WDOC can do it!