

CALIFORNIA INMATE PAY RATE SCHEDULE

One would think that it is well past the time for a increase in prisoner pay rates in the CDCR? I would say yes, however Prisoncrats and Legislators naturally would say no! Never the less, lets examine the facts that over the years have come into play. When one considers the fact that the Department over the past 25 plus years have been authorized in several ways to dig deep into your meager resources and your family and friends wallet! In fact the most significant in our mind is the one instituted back in about 1998 the Amendment of 15 CCR Article 1.5 "Inmate Wage and Deductions" section 3097. "INMATE RESTITUTION FINE AND DIRECT ORDER COLLECTIONS" which up until the amendment was basically 20% Twenty Percent with the De-

partment Collecting 10% of that amount as a 2% processing fee resulting in the CDCR collecting a total of 22% Twenty-Two Percent being deducted from a prisoners inmate trust account. The CDCR was then authorized to increase the deductions from 20% to 30% and the CDCR according was able to increase their take from 2% to 3% through December 31, 2004 at which time the the CDCR was again each successive year to raise the restitution deduction amount to 40% (44%), then 50% (55%) in which their take also increased which is quite lucrative in view of the data relative to the amount of restitution collected being \$190,000,000 Million Dollars which means that the CDCR earned over \$38,000,000 Million Dollars via automated

deductions from prisoner trust accounts, particularly in view of the fact that the CDCR has a State Budget that's over \$9,000,000,000 Billion Dollars per year! Now when one considers that the automated system of accounting does all of the work except the initial input of financial data relative to funds received by prisoners. Now that is only part of the problem I see, and it stands out in my mind because it has never never changed irrespective of the multiple assessment increases levied upon prisoners accounts, that is the MINIMUM & MAXIMUM HOURLY PRISONER PAY RATES!!! All across the Nation, State and Federal minimum wages have increased! Even the safety-net Social Programs provide for cost of living increases with the periodic (Continued P 3)

CALIFORNIA INMATE PAY RATE SCHEDULE (Continued)

Increase in government tax assessments. Every sector of Society, Public, Private and the Government have increased what they receive except prisoners. This I believe is wrong as all the assessments levied upon prisoners leaves very little for prisoners to finance their furtherance of Higher Education on their own in considering the cost of Books and Materials required for the Distance Learning Program. Then there is very little for Personal Hygiene items and Vitamin Supplements, or Snack Items. This, I would point out is just as bad or in some cases far worst than in third world countries in that while a Paying Job Assignment may be a Privileged Work Assignment and most Prisoners typically work a minimum of 40-48 hours per week in

which a Level 1 "Lead Person" the highest paid prisoner assignment [DOT Skill Level 9] only earns an hourly wage of \$0.32-\$0.37 cents which is the equivalent to the common wage in third world country Garment Workers in Bangladesh or Cambodia. However the difference is that those third world workers are privileged workers in their countries and receive special protections that prisoners in the CDCR would never be given because irrespective of the similar value and importance to the operations of prisons as the Bangladeshi/Cambodian is important to their countries export industries. Here in California Prisoncrats would rather pay Seiu Union members or private contractors to do the janitorial jobs that prisoners used to perform

at 100 times the cost. It is clear that it would be cost prohibitive for the CDCR to replace all prisoner with private contractors etc. However it is amazing how these private contractors are able to gulp at the golden teat of the CDCR/California Budget. Case in point, the Basic Level 5 Prison Laborer in the CDCR earns between \$0.08-\$0.13 an hour, in which 55% of that is deducted for Restitution Payments, even mind you on victimless crimes...! Yes Judges are still required to assess restitution fines between \$200 and \$10,000! This is in addition to Court Costs and Attorney fees if the court so chooses irrespective of ones ability to pay or indigence. The common Bangladeshi on the other hand earns a minimum of (Continued P4)

CALIFORNIA INMATE PAY RATE (Conclusion)

\$19.00 per month which is not much, yet when you consider the fact that America is supposedly the richest country on the planet, and prisoners who earn an equivalent to wages earned in third world countries and must also pay 55% plus in assessments; they will be lucky to see half of that amount when its time to shop at a store that the prices are inflated an additional 10% above retail prices! Prisoncrats will naturally boast the perceptive idea that conditions in California Prisons are better than those in Cambodia or Bangladesh, yet if I or other prisoners of conscious had a choice we would likely choose to relocate, rather than remaining in the California Prison Industrial Complex. Minimum wage in the United States varies between \$7.25-\$10.00 per hour and that makes the value of Prisoner labor in the CDCR at less than \$0.0362 cents or rounded up to \$0.04 cents and hour which is in my opinion incredible. At the bare minimum, the Prisoner basic wage scale should be based upon 10% of the California Minimum wage. The CDCR annually spends over 9.5 Billion Dollars for housing prisoners which includes an allotment of funds in each Prisons Support Budget to pay all the Work/Training Assignments. This Allotment should provide for the same 10% of California Minimum Wage while keeping in mind the U.S. Dictionary Occupation Title (DOT) Skill Level Pay Rates as the basis for the 10% Level. Its only right. J.Q. Convict