American Prison Writing Archive

Writing of Datra Johnson Vol. II (Texas Parole System)

In the books Texas, has a way to justify there actions, without reason, (at least this is what they believe). Once you experance things in Texas, you do not see any understand and the system makes no sense, especially, the Texas Parole System.

While at Coffield Unit, I had a job at Metal Fabrications, a company in Texas Correctional Industrys, that make everything for Military, Prisons, Parks and Recreation. You name it and it can be made at Metal Fabricatias by Texas Inmates. Texas Department of Criminal Justice, makes millions off free labor, because inmates do not get paid a dime for their work. They do not even provide a W2, form for inmates to fill out for their jobs. Even though Texas profits off the labor of inmates. (Free labor)

Now Texas System, stated that inmates are paid off by giving us work time. Which pushes our release date closer, this release date is a date on our time sheet called, your minimum expiration date. Minimum expiration is is about halfway from the sentence expiration date the judge gave you, one your time sheet the date to end your sentence day for day is the maximum expiration date. The minimum expiration date is about roughly half of your sentence.

The free labor, isn't free labor in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Eyes. Because the more you work and keep good conduct you recieve time earning credits. This moves your release date closer to you, with everyday you go to work or act in the proper manner.

The Problem is, is that people/inmates go to work everyday and they never catch one case/disciplinary infraction and they still have to do the full sentence the judge gave them day-for-day to their discharge date, or close to it. The never are granted they there reward for the free labor.

Your probably thinking, "What about that minimum expiration date?" Well

Once this date has come, you can either recieve a RMS or DMS. The Titile is Mandatory Supervision, its suppose to be Mandatory, because you have earned this through good behavior, you have also worked for this through your labor. This is the paper-work that your time sheet is describing. So the Texas Parole System can provide you with a Release Mandatory Supervison, which means you made parole. Then the can also give you a Denied Mandatory Supervision, which means they are not going to give you parole even though you worked for it and you earned it. They deny inmates parole everyday on the dates they should be released.

Even if a inmate has one of the hardest jobs in prison, he still gets the same parole time earning credit as a inmate that is medically unassigned, and doesnt have to work. There is no balance, just strait unfair.

Depending on the crime you commited determines whether or not you even qualify for parole, and you still have to work and get paid by parole credits. Some aggravated, or 3g, criminal offenses do not even offer a minimum release date for inmates to use there parole time earning credits toward.

When Parole denies Texas inmates parole, they do not even let you see the parole board face to face. They mail you a letter with a list of reasons why you were not granted parole.

They grant inmates parole alot of times, and right at the gate for no justification provided to the Inmate, they take his parole from him. An the inmate hasn't done anything to ruin his parole on his behalf. But Parole still doesnt explain their reasons, he just goes back to his cell.

Last but not least, when you do make parole if your lucky to make parole, they force you to sign a contract saying you give your work-time, and good-time credit payments back to T.D.C.J, and they will release you. If you do not give them back (sign that paper) they will not let you make parole.

In the mean time, while you work [redacted] in complience with a system that makes no sense, Texas Correctional Industrys, (TCI) which is nothing but a, stockmarket / Business, title for, Texas Department of Criminal Justice (T.D.C.J.) is making money off the labor of inmates and they are not being rewarded a dime for there man labor.

Im not going to write down, the, textbook, laws, and rules that the Texas Parole Board goes by, but, its obvious that some Federal Law, or humane law, is being ignored. This was the words from my true point-of-view on parole.

This is something every inmate is going through, and has been dealing with for years and much more years to come.

All one can do is have faith, and hope, that one day a laywer will come in and investigate this system. So that it may be dismantled, and a much more fair system developed.

Inmates even after punishment,
Still recieve punishment.

- Dutra Johnson -
[redacted] 10-2018