

# The Prison System is NOT broken!

I cringe when I hear someone say, "The prison system is broken!" I say that because their argument is completely misguided. When we say something is broken, we usually mean it does not work as it was intended to work. Does that seem to describe our prison system? No, in fact, if we ignore morals and ethics for a second our prison system would be viewed as one of a select few industries that operates better than it was intended to, and it's only getting more efficient every year. But how, and why?

One word - Congress!! The prison industrial complex would be impossible without Congress, and the key to the deconstruction (not destruction) of the system is the Prison Litigation Reform Act (PLRA). But there I go getting ahead of myself, let's start from the beginning of the efficient version of "Operation Prison Profits." Get out your bellbottoms and Oil Sheen, we're going back to 1980.

In 1980, Congress along with President (then Congressman) Joe Biden, started to "Get tough," on crime, which

initially meant longer sentences on certain crimes. Then came the "war on Drugs," three years too early. Next, in 1984 came the Sentencing Reform Act (SRA), which repealed parole in federal prisons. So, now we have longer "in" prison terms on those longer sentences. But the straw that broke the camel's back came in Clinton's Administration (via Biden and the PLRA). The PLRA was one of the greatest sleight of hand tricks in history, initially viewed as a way for inmates to address their grievances the PLRA makes it almost impossible for inmates to sue even when you can prove your rights were violated.

Because lawsuits are just awful for their bottom line!!

So what do we have? A series of intentional, deliberate acts by Congress to, 1) Intentionally defraud the American people (I know that this is a total shock) 2) Ultimately stick them with the bill (Their tax money), and 3) Turn pain into profit (Their ultimate goal). I am of the opinion that the PLRA is the only domino that has to intentionally fall, it will knock the rest over. How?

We live in a capitalistic society, more or less, if the profit, and therefore the profit motive disappear so will the profiteers in the prison industrial complex

and they will naturally relocate their capital to more advantageous industries. I don't believe the profiteers are inherently evil, they're greedy. You want them to choose people they don't know over billions of dollars in a government insulated industry? Good luck, you're going to need it. Make the profits disappear and the industry will too.

We've all heard the saying, "Follow the money," and now could we not when it leaves such a foul stench? For the life of me, I can't understand why African Americans love Democrats. Joe Biden and Bill Clinton furthered the agenda more than anybody to date, at least the Republicans show you how much they hate you. Maybe it's time for a third political party?