

Title: "I don't Care": The Attitude Toward Prisoners & the P.I.C.

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One of the most often heard sentiments regarding prisoners, prisons, parolees, the parole system and the Prison Industrial Complex is: "I don't care". Whether expressed in silence, words, actions or inaction it is the unemotional thought chain that has bound America. "I don't care" is the chant, slogan, politically correct term, socially accept attitude and expected group think behavior that is MASS incarceration by Americans of Americans.

Before I came to prison over six years ago, I did not care about prisoners or the Prison Industrial Complex (PIC) or any of the associated social, economic, political or personal side effects of MASS incarceration. After six years of inside examination of this great American institution - I can now say I do care about the people and how the PIC affects America.

Do You care, should You care? Consider this, whether or not You believe it, like it, Admit it this social, political and economic juggernaut "MASS INCARCERATION INC." directly affects or effects Your life personally. P.I.C. is a Trillion-plus dollar vertical and horizontal Behemoth that includes more assets (property, equipment, inmates), people employeed directly or indirectly and financial transactions than many countries on Earth. Texas county jails, state jails and Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) prisons combined is a total economy greater than a number of nations on the Globe: Don't Mess With TEXAS!

Yet most people - VOTERS - in America when asked about the P.I.C. respond, "I don't care" about that, it doesn't affect me; or "I don't care" the economy is more important to me. Hmmm, mainstream media is not telling the masses of sheeple's just what a huge portion of the economy is P.I.C., Inc. But, this essay is going deeper than numbers; let us go over the edge into a prison cell of thoughts, feelings and attitudes. Let us, You and I consider some of the thoughts, feelings and attitudes behind "I don't care", as I relate various aspects of prison life to You and few of the more memorable experiences.

It starts in County jail: We, once arrested must not and can not continue to be thought of as people worthy of being cared for. The "I don't care" about inmates, prisoners, group think must be engrained into family, friends, community and of course the P.I.C. by the P.I.C. So dehumanization begins at once. In county, during intake, a prisoner is stripped naked, sprayed by a guard with chemicals from head to toe to kill lice and so on. If the spray gets in your eyes, mouth or nose (which they make sure it does) and I complained, the standard response ensues "I don't care" you shouldn't have gotten arrested. Then the prisoners, property, are tagged, given jail house cloths, privateless showers, substandard meals. Prisoners are guilty until proven innocent and are treated as such. P.I.C. begins the indoctrination of family at once as well. Visits, show them the prisoners are guilty, animals, to be kept in cuffs, shackles, cages, under lock and key. Communication is virtually shut-off. Immediately a public defender pushes for a plea and time to both the family and prisoner. "I don't care" about the truth or this ones life screams the great America Justice system, i.e. P.I.C., Inc. While in County, family members usually will stand by their man through the court process till a verdict or a plea. Most of mine did as well. Sometimes though, after 25 years of marriage, in the same week I signed a 20 plus year plea agreement and divorce papers. Signed away my passed and possibly my future. She through words and action expressed "I don't care" and I have not heard from her since; not even regarding the deaths of both my parents or the births of two grandchildren.

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My son and daughter-in-law, the parents of the grand children have never written or visited me since I left county. One of the last things my son said to me was "I love You". Loving and caring about people are two different sentiments and actions. My son is using the silent "I don't care" method, as is most of my family since I left county. The P.I.C. is geared, oiled and ran to destroy families, family units and family relationships. Do you have a family member who is a part of the "mass" fenced inside the P.I.C.? Do you care?

Then the officially guilty chattel is shipped off to prison: It was a cold November day in South East Texas, at the intake unit: "Butt Naked Journey". At about 10:00 a.m. we offenders (TDCJ's official term) were herded off the chain bus and lined up in rows on a large concrete slab. We are ordered to strip, butt naked of course. "You are in prison now those cloths belong to the county." Boxers were given out - only after all county cloths had been gathered up and put in a container by the slow moving guards in jackets. A clear "I don't care" message was sent to us - the very first thing to happen in my prison experience. Then row by row we filed through a set of stations: a near bald shave of the head, cloths, blanket, tooth paste - toothbrush and a roll of toilet paper. Then taken to housing areas to dump all the stuff in a fancy human, sub-human, ah they are just offenders - P.I.C. multimillion dollar warehouse. The last event is a trip to the local offender dinner for a tray of offender chow. That first day, inmates are yelled at, be-littled and intimidated from the second one steps off the chain bus. Six years later it is the same "I don't care" treatment yesterday, today and will be tomorrow. That is the basic method of control over the mass incarcerated. A few months later, most, like myself were shipped to I.D. units, to real prison as some would say.

At I.D. units is really is where "I don't care" settles into the system like H₂O in the ocean or nitrogen in the atmosphere. Many coaches will tell a star athlete, "it is all about your attitude and mind set son". Successful people have a "I don't care" what it takes motto and thought chain. The P.I.C. ~~breeds~~ breeds, instills, induces the "I don't care" mind set inside and outside its humankind isolation, retention, repression and destruction institution.

Let us examine the breeding of the guards. In training, it must be impressed upon them offenders are the dregs and rejects of society: worthless thieves, drug dealers, drunks, murderers, pimps, wife beaters or the worst of all mankind a sex offender. It must be instilled into every guards persona and thought chain that inmates always lie, always have an angle, always try to get one over on a guard or are always trying to get away with something. Well these things are only true about 90 to 95% of the time and only covers about 94 to 96% of the inmate population I have met personally while being in prison. Are they paid to care: NO. Do guards have any real incentive to care, not really. Guards are not trained counselors. Training is all about security, control and repression; otherwise how else can a little forty year old woman control, command and herd eighty plus hardened, mean, tough, lawless criminals in a housing wing. It is amazing how few guards - many now are middle age to old women - effectively turn gang members into docile sheeple with ease and regularity.

Who are prison guards anyway. They are people who typically can not hold down a job anywhere else. Guards are bi-polar, thieves, and lazy. How else do drugs, cell phones or other contraband enter any prison? Many of them know it is their job to punish offenders, as if just being ~~here~~ here is not enough. Most correctional worker have very low work ethics, zero professionalism and are generally messed up people with rough lives and a really horrible job.

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This description of proud and out of shape security population covers about 90 to 92%. All above %'s are rough estimates without the use of any scientific or statistical method involved; give 1 to 2 percent margin of error. Therefore, is it any wonder "I don't care" comes out of guards' mouths as often as AIR and cuss words? No, in point of fact, that is just what the P.I.C. wants, expects and demands.

The "I don't care" group think is influenced by a key dynamic in the equation: how each group treats the other. Let us review. From the moment I got off the bus I was treated sub-human and have been every day since. Offender treatment is by design, planned and well thought out; it is so the MASS of incarcerated can be controlled by a vastly out numbered group in "Authority". Remember P.I.C. breeds, instills and induces "I don't care". The response is that offenders treat guards with disdain, disrespect, indifference, resentment, anger and sometimes violence. P.I.C. gets what it wants, neither side cares about each other; what incentive does either side have; which one will make the first move toward caring, how can real change be effected? Due to the way they treat me, I can honestly say until this past year, I did not care about the guards.

Let us revisit the family dynamic more generally. Some families care in the following ways: letters, phone calls, visits, money or legal assistance. Others care through: letters, phone calls, visits or money. Still others care through: ~~care~~ care letters or little money. Some families care more, some less and some not really at all. Some, most, men in here get little to no caring from family. All throughout ~~history~~ history prison has been a very horrible place to end up, to visit, to spend part of ones short life in. Family members are understandably disappointed, frustrated and/or angry with their incarcerated loved one. The question is how does that develop into "I don't care"? P.I.C., I now believe, contributes greatly to this mental and ~~emotional~~ emotional shift, through several well developed tactics that have been handed down through the Ages. Here are just a couple of the most effective of such tactics: (1) Turn strong, resourceful, tough minded men into whiners and complainers by making their life miserable. Take away decision making, choice, meaningful work and replace with being treated as worthless property and helpless children. It puts rough and tough criminals in a position of helplessness and weakness; so they badger, whinning and complaining, their family members in virtually every letter, call or visit. No doubt this quickly wears down family; especially if family members are already disenchanted with their loved one. (2) Out of sight, out of mind. P.I.C. seems to not favor building prisons in the suburbs. P.I.C. tends to make communication with inmates difficult, costly and slow. P.I.C. ships inmates over six or eight hours away from where they were living previously (Yes, in Texas that is a common situation - NOT so much in Rhode Island or even Ohio). After a year or two ^{because} of these combined interaction and communication factors caring trickles down to drips and drops - or nothing at all.

Next is time, life simply moves on for those outside the fences and walls; family grows up and old, change jobs, moves, buys and sells houses or cars, meets new people and have other life altering events to deal with - All of which the loved one, inmate, simply is not a party to anymore. So does family have time for letters or dealing with P.I.C. issues, mistreatment, illegal activities and the like. P.I.C. makes sure the family is not reminded of their loved one, MASS incarcerated or the P.I.C. effects by the news, general media or political parties. Their loved ones complaints are not confirmed or justified. Do not be deceived it is all well coordinated by P.I.C., Inc.

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How CAN ONE really tell that the P.I.C. is really coordinating, fermenting, breeding and instilling the "I don't care" thought chain binding America? Let us sit down and watch the news together and then go door to door and poll the Voters, shall we. The media is NOT going to put the P.I.C. in a bad light in the public narrative. The main reason is that Voters created the P.I.C.: "War on Drugs"; "Tough on Crime"; "Three Strikes Laws" and on and on. Voters, our family members, the guards, put the Judges and D.A.'s in office. Who elected the ~~governors~~ governors and state legislators? "We the People" have incarcerated our own and ourselves. Up until very recently, P.I.C. was a positive, vote capturing, part of both parties political platforms. Ann Richards (D) built the prison I am in and Republicans filled it up. The General Public is about Jobs, Health Care, Public Safety, Welfare and Education. P.I.C. has been sold for decades as a way to ensure, promote or protect those basic voter wants and needs. How much has the general populations attitude really changed? Just look at the size and funding levels of prison reform, rehabilitation ~~or~~ or abolitionist organizations - compared to the P.I.C. establishment. True in this year 2020, there appears to be a change in attitude occurring; but is it a deep grass roots change or just some fringe political ploy?

Time will tell. The MASS's of voters and the general media are still bound by the "I don't care" thought chain regarding the masses of ~~themselves~~ themselves they have incarcerated in MASS numbers. John @ Public won't hire and doesn't want ex-cons in their company or community - yet Johnny Public loves to drink and drive, enjoys drugs, commits a felony a week and consumes a day of porn monthly.

Now to the million dollar - trillion - dollar question, when and how is the "I don't care" thought chain broken? For most people, only when the P.I.C. either directly negatively impacts them; or when a person is educated, informed to the point to where they understand how the P.I.C. negatively impacts their-life indirectly or in direct ways generally. In simple terms when I know P.I.C. hurts me; I care. Talk to guards and staff - most all hate being in prison; but it is the only job they can get at the time. Or, they get their jollies off by being able to treat other people as they do. Family members do not like P.I.C. Etc.; but politicians and mass media has educated them to support P.I.C. for decades on end. As for little ole' me - You bet I NOW CARE. That is why I wrote this short essay.

MASS incarceration is and should not be a part of the America or human social ethos. The P.I.C. is just a different packaging of slavery, discrimination and exploitation. It is an industry that makes its owners very rich at the expense of all the rest of society. Maybe it is time to defund corrupt police departments and de-construct the P.I.C. Whether you or I believed it before or not; the time has arrived to understand the P.I.C. negatively affects you, someone you love and us as a society. We all must break the "I don't care" thought chain that is enslaving us all and earnestly seek better solutions. It is time to think, say and do "I care." For us all to again live free in the Land of Lady Liberty, our beautiful goddess of Care and Compassion; our lovely maiden of Tolerance and Inclusion. Our society must care about its people, all of its people. Caging the masses by the masses is causing our sweet Lady Liberty to cry and the rest of the masses to revolt. Our darling goddess, Lady Liberty, is holding up the lamp of liberty to the masses to care about those weary and down trodden right here in the country founded by and for the down trodden masses of the world. I have broken my thought chain - "I care". Can you, will you care as well? Will you care about me? About the masses?

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