

PAROLE

By James W. Harkleroad

PAROLE: The granting of release from imprisonment while yet being supervised by the government.

A "gift" from the government for (supposedly) showing that one has achieved a measure of self-control one did not have previously.

The reality is:

(A) The Parole Board in Florida is a "patronage" job. The people appointed to the position have a vested interest in keeping the politicians (and their money sources) happy, so parole can be bought.

(B) The Parole Board staff have a vested interest in the creation, and maintaining, of a large prison population. A study done in 2019 of prison admissions by the Council of State Governments found that "45% of state prison admissions nationwide are due to violations of probation or parole."

(Reported in the Human Rights Release Center - Annual Report 2020 - www.prisonlegalnews.org.)

Fine - the Parole Board (as presently set up) is useless. So the question becomes - What is the alternative?

Take the decision making out of the government's hands. Let the citizens make the decisions as to who gets paroled and who has their parole, probation or Controlled Release revoked when they are (supposedly) guilty of a violation.

The Parole Jury would be made up of six (6) members of the community where the individual proposes to, or does, live. Each member would sit for one (1) day to consider requests from prisoners for parole, and by the government for the revocation of parole, probation or Controlled Release.

Parole - Harkleroad

PG 2 of 2

Producing "objective" decisions (as Florida law requires), free of politics and bureaucratic self-serving.