

No running water at shop, Keep working!

In the Jameson Annex of the South Dakota State Penitentiary there is a company called MCI (Metal Craft Industries) that utilizes inmates to make and manufacture multiple items. There are a lot of welding jobs, machining parts, and other jobs that go along with it.

About 3 weeks ago the running water to the PI shop was shut off to fix the plumbing issues that have been occurring ~~at~~ for over a year. On the sidewalk we walk on to work, human feces and toilet paper can ~~be~~ be seen springing out of pipe cover, spewing sewer water and its contents on the sidewalk, where it sits for months.

They brought in one port-o-potty for 30+ people and put it in the shop, since the 5 toilets didn't work. We had to bring out ~~a~~ a few coolers of water that often went empty and the correctional officers often didn't feel like filling them back up with water.

For 3 weeks we kept working, in fact our work hours were extended to about 7:30 pm. The paperwork I signed states that the prison/state can take up to 80% of my wages for various things. The prison officials don't care about not having running water, sewerage/human feces flooding on the sidewalk for over a year and other issues, they just want to keep inmates working to maximize the money ~~the~~ the state can get from us. We are nothing but American, TAXPAYING, slaves of the state.

According to prison policy 1.5.A.2, section 4, subsection D it states: "Inmates removed from employment with PIECP have no right to continued employment, due process or pay for work completed. Inmates employed by a PIECP industry are NOT "employees" covered by the federal Fair Labor Standards Act."

The little bit of money we do get is subject to further restrictions, ~~and~~ remember up to 80% can be taken from ~~our~~ our paychecks. The paperwork I was required to sign allows 40% of my gross wages to be taken out of every paycheck for cost-of-incarceration alone. The money in my frozen account I have to get permission to use, even though I am doing a life sentence and will never leave prison, which is what the frozen account is for.

The Prison-Industrial Complex continues to make use of American citizens labor in prisons without ~~of~~ any accountability or ethical treatment that American citizens are guaranteed under law and the Constitution. I believe in our changing society that more oversight ~~is~~ and reform is needed in the South Dakota Department of Corrections and around the country, don't you?