

## **(The Madness Continues)**

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With wars on terrorism being fought in Iraq and Afghanistan that are costing tax payers billions of dollars a month, a subprime mortgage meltdown and high food and gas prices, why am I not the least bit surprised that the State of Pennsylvania has found the prison industrial complex so lucrative and recession proof that legislators in Harrisburg have dug deep into the state's coffer and the Pennsylvania General Assembly has come up with well over seven hundred million dollars to build three new maximum security prisons, which will bring the number to a staggering **30 state prisons** in operation.

When S.C.I. Forest and Fayette were built a few years back, the excuse that was given to the general public was that these two new prisons were to replace S.C.I. Pittsburgh and Waynesburg because they were old and not economically feasible to keep open! Well, as soon as SCI-Forest and Fayette were up and running, S.C.I. Pittsburgh and Waynesburg were closed down. However, S.C.I. Pittsburgh opened right back up, just over a year and a half later, under the cloak of so-called over-crowding which looks like it was the game plan from the very beginning!

It should be very clear to all by now that as long as Governor Ed Rendell and state legislators in Harrisburg keep giving the PA-D.O.C. "Department of Corruption" and the Parole Board a blank check, backed by the state taxpayers, they will do nothing to combat intentionally manufactured "over-crowding". "Over-crowding" could be eradicated all together if the PA D.O.C. would let the prisoners that are well over their parole minimum dates take the necessary programs mandated by the Parole Board. If not, things will go from bad to worse!

Correction counselors are slow to add the names of prisoners to the already long waiting list for program classes! This tactic will insure denial of parole if the mandated programs are not completed when the prisoner is reviewed by the PA Parole Board.

Also until parole offices are given clear instructions to stop taking a zero tolerance approach to toward the men and women on their caseload and not violate them for being 5 to 10 minutes late for halfway house curfew or for having a cell phone in the year 2008!

These are just a few of the ways that the PA Department of Corruption and the PA Parole Board keep state prisons constantly filled to their maximum capacity.