

# "Human Commodity"

By Kenneth M. Key

Rather you know it, believe it, or want to admit it, prisoners are a human Commodity. What is this Human Commodity?  
COMMODITY: "Something that is useful or necessary."

The incarceration of poor whites, Blacks and Latinos is a most valuable Commodity in the United States. This System that now incarcerates at a rapid pace, relies on these individuals committing crimes.

But, who really profits from these crimes? See anyone who commits a crime is not only labeled a "CRIMINAL FOREVER" but is and forever viewed as a Commodity by a multitude of people.

While many are committing these small crimes, most being senseless, having no value. unaware of those who are sitting back thinking of the many ways they can exploit prisoners,

Simply because they are now marginalized by our society. There are thousands, yes! I said thousands of companies that benefit from those incarcerated.

People such as stockholders, the thousands of prison guards, the administrative staff, general employees, phone companies, vendors etc.

They all have a vested interest in this business of incarcerating others and certainly maintaining it and keeping it constant, why? Because their Jobs Security Depends On It.

Prisoners are viewed as the Captive Work Force, Consumer and Chattel. Like my friend and author Joseph A. Dole, II a Lifer. In his book "A COSTLY AMERICAN HATRED" states

" Their livelihood of literally thousands of businesses and millions of people are now dependent on keeping millions of people incarcerated and in order for those various businesses to

Expand their markets, they must continually convince Americans to lock up even more people.

Prisoners and anyone that can be criminalized have therefore become both an economic and political commodity at the mercy of both the Prison Industrial Complex and Society's hatred."

Here individuals of all racial make-ups, some for selling a few vials of crack or heroin. Assaulting the elderly, robbing them of their hard earned money, property and various other low level crimes that never nets over a few hundred or thousands.

While companies like Dial make \$100,000 a year selling soap, while men fight their case in jail. Then there are companies like Vitu-pro Foods who report a 34 million dollar profit unloading its Genetically Modified Soy bean meat substitutes to prison through the United States.

The moment men and women are locked up, the cash register starts ringing and will continue. This is the

real cost of prison. It will effect families, spouses, children, relatives and friends.

Their hard earned money will go to the commissary to supplement a sub-part diet. To purchase tv's Birch at the cost of \$200.00 plus and this list goes on.

Here in my prison, the health care provider is "Wexford", who have stated "they're not here to heal us, but to make a profit." Two years ago they signed a 2.6 billion dollar contract with the Illinois Department of Corrections.

Yes! people are sitting back counting the cost to imprison men, women and what benefits they will make off their incarceration. See the Real Cost of Prisons puts thousands of dollars in a lot of people's pockets and the reason for sentence increase times the average cost of incarceration per inmates multiplied by the average

length of time to serve. See the average cost per inmate in most states is about \$30,000, higher as he becomes older and times that for say a murder sentence which is about 30 years and you're into hundreds of thousands. Now that's the real cost of prison.

MR. KENNETH M. KEY A-70562  
P.O. Box 112 / Stateville Corr. CTR.  
Joliet, IL 60434-0112