Meet the Drug War Winners and Losers

The Winners

**Prison Guards** - $45,000 a year to start, no college required. In California the Prison Guards Union is the most powerful lobby in the state. Not surprisingly, they support legislators who are “tough on crime.”

**Prison Owners** - $3 billion a year goes to the highly profitable private prison industry whose owners bank on harsh drug laws.

**The Drug Testing Industry** - Former drug warriors make millions testing our kids for drugs – even though it makes no measurable difference in actual drug use.

**Corrupt Police** - Confiscation of private property is now a significant source of police funding. It’s up to the accused to prove it wasn’t from drug money.

**The Pharmaceutical Industry** - Several major drug companies are frantically researching the cannabis plant for pain-killing and anti-nausea compounds that can be patented – while simultaneously spending millions on P.R. to keep the plant itself illegal.

**Terrorists** - $320 billion a year in tax-free illegal drug sales worldwide – enough to fund the worst things you can think of.

The Losers

**Education** - As prison budgets grow, the money has to come from somewhere – like schools, teachers and students. The U.S is now losing ground to Europe and Asia in education, but we’re still #1 in incarceration at three times the world average.

**Public Safety** - Prohibition creates crime. Criminals need safe turf. So they take over the inner cities by terrorizing the powerless and defenseless residents. Try to imagine this happening in upscale neighborhoods.

**Police Departments** - Drug corruption scandals are rocking police departments all over the country because of the staggering amount of loose cash in play.

**Equality** - Only 13% of the country’s drug users are African American but they’re twice as likely to get arrested as whites and four times as likely to do prison time.

**The Children** - With such a high percentage of minority parents in prison, who’s supposed to be raising their kids? What will be the “blowback?”

70% of the war is about marijuana. Isn't it time we tried peace?

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For footnotes see [http://www.csdp.org/publicservice/winner_notes.htm](http://www.csdp.org/publicservice/winner_notes.htm)