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Discussion 1: Corrections Policy

According to statistics, the United States has the highest number of inmates globally (Wilson & Petersilia, 2011). However, the data does not mean Americans commit the highest number of crimes but imply issues with the correctional policies passed. Law enforcers have a significant influence on the crime trends in the nation, as noted here. In 1994, the US passed the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Policy, which would determine the states allowed to build prisons. Primarily, it was enacted as the country's level of crimes increased, creating the need for prisons so correctional activities would be implemented to benefit communities. The policy stated that the regions allowed to build prisons had to meet several conditions. The number of convicted criminals with prison sentencing had to increase, and the prison time expanded for the inmates. Moreover, the number of sentences to be served by violent criminals had to improve.

Basing on these conditions, the violent crime control and law enforcement policy has several benefits and limitations. The plan was benefiting as the violent criminals would get access to correctional techniques helping them live with community members without engaging in crimes. For example, inmates are equipped with vocational training, where they gain skills enabling survival after return to society. They are also educated on illegal practices, which should be avoided as well as the ways to adhere to the law. Therefore, the building of the prisons would benefit violent criminals, as correctional aspects would be applied. However, the bill was limited due to the conditions the states should meet. As noted above, the number of convicted criminals needing imprisonment had to increase. Additionally, the statement led to the criminal justice being harsh on suspects making wrong judgments so the condition would be met. It is a disadvantage because justice was not served, especially to the people of color, which leads to more crimes for revenge.

The policy would be amended by ensuring the right steps are followed in deciding whether criminals would be sent to prisons. The system's aim should not be ensuring more people are convicted, so states are allowed to build prisons. Instead, it should be reducing the numbers by applying proper correctional strategies in the community.

Reference

Wilson, J. Q., & Petersilia, J. (2011). *Crime and public policy*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press

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