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U.S. Commission on Civil Rights  
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WEST VIRGINIA STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
TO THE  
UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

In the Matter of:

FEDERAL REFORMATORY FOR WOMEN  
AT ALDERSON, WEST VIRGINIA

Circuit Courtroom,  
Summers County Courthouse,  
Hinton, West Virginia,  
Friday, May 10, 1974.

M O R N I N G    S E S S I O N

The above-entitled matter came on for public  
hearing, pursuant to notice, at 9:15 a.m., EDST.

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A P P E A R A N C E SADVISORY COMMITTEE:

<u>JAMES B. McINTYRE,</u> Charleston, West Virginia	* Chairman
<u>GWENDOLYN HIGGINBOTHAM,</u> Bluefield, West Virginia	* Secretary
<u>HAROLD A. GIBBARD,</u> Morgantown, West Virginia	* Member
<u>DONALD L. PITTS,</u> Beckley, West Virginia	* Member

MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL OFFICE PERSONNEL PRESENT

<u>ROBERT T. COULTER</u>	* Staff Attorney
<u>EILEEN SIEDMAN</u>	* Deputy Director
<u>JACOB SCHLITT</u>	Director
<u>EMILY OLBRICH</u>	Research-Writer
<u>CAROLYN HANDY</u>	Staff Member
<u>DONALD H. GOFF</u>	Consultant

\* Members of Committee Panel.

P R O C E E D I N G S

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: Ladies and gentlemen,

this open hearing of the West Virginia State Advisory Committee to the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights will come to order.

I am James McIntyre of Charleston, a member of the West Virginia State Advisory Committee to the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights.

Miles Stanley, our beloved Chairman, was to have chaired this meeting today. Last Friday, a week ago, Miles Stanley died. For the many years he served as Chairman of our Commission, he served as a substantial inspiration to each member of it. In his state, he was a dynamic leader. In his community, he shared, as all good neighbors do. In his home, he was the center of its love. His death has created an aching void in West Virginia, and some wonder if it can ever be filled.

However, if we will carry forth the programs and do it with the spirit and enthusiasm Miles Stanley demonstrated throughout his life, his memory will be with us for all time.

The members of the Committee who will be participating in this hearing today are, to my right,

Gwendolyn Higginbotham, a member of the Advisory Committee; to her immediate left, Harold Gibbard, also a member of the Advisory Committee; and to my immediate left, Donald Pitts, a member of the Advisory Committee.

Also to appear with us today are Robert Coulter, to my immediate right, to act as Counsel for the Committee.

Others present are Eileen Siedman, Emily Olbrich, Carolyn Handy, Armando Rodriguez, and Jacob Schlitt, of the Commission's Washington Office, and Donald H. Goff, consultant to the Commission.

This hearing is being held pursuant to rules applicable to State Committees and other requirements promulgated by the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights.

The Commission on Civil Rights is an independent agency of the U. S. Government, established by Congress in 1958 and authorized by the Civil Rights Acts of 1957, 1960 and 1964, to:

- 1) investigate complaints alleging that citizens are being deprived of their right to vote by reason of their race, color, religion, or national origin;

- 2) study and collect information concerning legal developments which constitute a denial of equal protection of the laws under the Constitution;
- 3) appraise Federal laws and policies with respect to equal protection of the laws;
- 4) serve as a national clearing-house for civil rights information and;
- 5) investigate allegations of vote fraud.

I would like to emphasize, at this time, that this is an informal hearing and not an adversary type of proceeding. Individuals have been invited to come and share with the Committee information relating to the Federal Reformatory for Women at Alderson, West Virginia. Each person who will participate has voluntarily agreed to meet with this Committee.

Every effort has been made to invite persons who are knowledgeable about the problems and progress in the area to be dealt with here today. In an

effort to get a well-balanced picture of conditions in the Federal Women Reformatory at Alderson, we have invited prison officials and staff, residents and former residents, and community organization representatives.

Since this is a public hearing, the press, radio, and television stations, as well as individuals, are welcome. Any person discussing a matter with the Committee, however, may specifically request that he not be televised. In this case, it will be necessary for me to comply with his wishes.

We are very concerned that we get all of the information relating to the matter under inquiry. We are, however, concerned that no individual be the victim of slander or libelous statements.

As a precaution against such happening, each person making a statement here today or answering questions has been interviewed prior to this meeting. However, in the unlikely event that such a situation should develop, it will be necessary for me to call this to the attention of the person making the statement and request that he desist in his action.

If the testimony the person is offering, however, is of sufficient importance, it may be necessary

for the Committee to hear the information in a closed session. The person against whom the allegations are being made will have ample opportunity to make a statement in closed session before the Committee if he so desires. In any event, prior to the time that the Committee submits its report to the Commission, every effort will be made to get a complete picture of the situation as it exists in Alderson today.

This meeting will attempt to examine conditions in the Federal Women's Reformatory at Alderson, and to hear from both residents and staff. It is our hope that the information obtained here will help to determine whether national guidelines establishing basic rights of inmates are needed. In addition, the hearing will examine whether differences in treatment exist because of race or sex. This meeting is part of a study being undertaken by the Commission and the information gathered will be the basis of a statutory Commission report to the President and Congress on prison conditions nationally.

Committee members and staff have spent many weeks gathering information on conditions at Alderson. We have reviewed regulations and interviewed scores of individuals. However, our interest will not end with this

meeting. We intend to maintain contact with all levels of the Alderson community and will be especially interested to learn of changes in conditions or any action which might be considered retributive toward anyone who has agreed to meet with the Committee.

At the conclusion of the scheduled meeting, should anyone else wish to appear in open session before the Committee, he should notify Ms. Siedman or Mr. Schlitt before the meeting adjourns.

That having been said, our first participant at our open meeting here today was to have been the Honorable W. J. Humphreys, Mayor of Hinton, West Virginia. However, we have learned that he is ill and unable to attend. Speaking on his behalf and in his stead is Mr. Harold B. Eagle, City Attorney for Hinton, West Virginia.

WELCOME

MR. EAGLE: Thank you, Mr. McIntyre.

Members of the Committee, guests, visitors, and friends, on behalf of the City of Hinton, and particularly on behalf of the Mayor, it is my privilege to welcome each and every one of you here this morning.

We feel that while West Virginia has been nicknamed Wild, Wonderful West Virginia by our Commissioner,



Mr. Lysander Dudley, in Charleston, we in Hinton have gotten an edge on that particular part of the nickname, "Wonderful", because we feel we are in that beautiful section of a state that is a wild, wonderful state.

Hinton, particularly, I think you will find, if you haven't already been here before, is a friendly city, and we like to have you come. We want your stay to be pleasant.

We know you have a lot of work to do. We hope it will bear fruit, and that you will have a good meeting.

If there is anything while you are here that particularly comes to your attention that you need any assistance with, I am right across the street.

I am not going to participate in this, because I have no complaints. I have lots of complaints, but they don't refer necessarily to this Commission.

Again, I want to welcome you on behalf of the Mayor and all of the official administration of the City of Hinton, and we hope that your stay will be pleasant and that you will come back often, and if you don't come back to a Committee Meeting, come back and visit with us.

Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: Thank you very much, Mr. Eagle. I understand that we have been granted immunity today from any overtime parking violations. I know Mr. Eagle participated in that decision, and for that we thank you.

MR. EAGLE: Yes, sir. You are welcome. Don't anybody pay any parking tickets.

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: Our next participant today is a person who will be appearing now, and again later. She will appear at this time for the purpose of giving us a welcome and a brief description of Alderson. So I will call at this time, Virginia McLaughlin, the Warden at Alderson Reformatory for Women.

MS. McLAUGHLIN: First, I would like to express my appreciation for the study. I think that it is an extremely important thing, and I express this on behalf of both the staff and the residents at Alderson.

I wasn't told until just recently that I was supposed to say much more than "Hello" and "Thank you". But I would want to say that we are extremely concerned with the rights of our clients, of our staff, and of each person. I think tantamount to this concern is also our concern with the responsibilities of each of us.

Alderson is the only distaff institution in the federal system. There are, as you know, approximately thirty-nine institutions. We seem to be adding institutions or treatment centers from time to time. But I would say approximately thirty-nine. And we are the only distaff institution in the system.

Our clients come from all over the United States, primarily from the eastern seaboard. We are at a minority population of approximately seventy-two per cent.

I think it is important for us to say that I don't think any jail is a good place. I think by the very nature of it, that is true. You know, a rose by any other name; you can call it what you want to, but a Joint is a Joint, and they are not good places.

The most we can hope for is that in our institutions we can provide a system that people can grow and develop what talents they have, and everyone has the talent. I think the staff and the philosophy of the institution has been to emphasize and be concerned with the importance of each human being, and the dignity and worth of that human being.

You can build all the buildings that you

want to, and have all the programs and all the professional people, but if the least of us does not respect the dignity of each human, and if the least of us does not feel that as humans we are more alike than different, then we don't have any kind of institution.

If I could say so, I would say the most positive thing I could say about Alderson is that I think my staff is one which I could say has absolute integrity. They are concerned about people. I think the most important things that we can bring to our clients is concern and dignity, and personal integrity. And I think our staff has that.

We probably have more deficiencies than we have positive areas. But as I said, I think the important thing is people. It is a "People" business.

If there is any one thing that I feel strongly about, it is the staff that I have at Alderson. You could build us the best buildings in the world, but it is the people that are important.

Again I would like to thank everyone here. I know I have left a lot out, and particularly to members of the Commission, you will be hearing about what is going on, because I think the programs are essential. But that

will develop as the day goes along, and I do want to thank each and every person who is here. We appreciate your coming.

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: Thank you, Ms. McLaughlin. Ms. McLaughlin will be appearing at our hearing again, later this afternoon.

As our first substitute panelist on the program, the welcoming having already occurred, we would like to call from the Department of Criminal Justice Studies of the University of Minnesota, Phyllis Baunach.

WOMEN'S PRISONS RESEARCH

MS. BAUNACH: Thank you, Mr. McIntyre.

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: Questioning of Ms. Baunach will occur and will be directed by Tim Coulter, the Staff Counsel.

MR. COULTER: Would you, for the record, please state your full name and address?

MS. BAUNACH: My name is Phyllis Jo Baunach, and my home address or business?

MR. COULTER: Whichever you prefer.

MS. BAUNACH: My business address is the University of Minnesota, the Department of Criminal Justice Studies.

MR. COULTER: Could you please describe for the Committee, very briefly, your background as it relates to corrections and the criminal justice system?

MS. BAUNACH: At the present time I am teaching a course at the University on "Women in the Criminal Justice System", and I am an instructor on the faculty for that course.

I have worked as a teaching assistant and teaching associate at the University for about the past year and a half, teaching courses with Professor Tom Murton on Correctional Administration, Contemporary Penology and Community Based Corrections.

I have also done a good deal of traveling to institutions with projects. For example, the Department of Labor funded a project dealing with "Classification of Offenders", across the country.

I have done some writing and speaking, and visiting of many women's prisons in this country, and one in South America.

MR. COULTER: What does the research that you are familiar with tell us about the special problems that women may have in prisons?

MS. BAUNACH: First of all, I have to say

something, especially for the record, and that is that there is very little research done on women's problems in the institution. In fact, in 1967, the President's Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice made no mention of women at all. It was only in an unpublished task force report by Walter Reckliss and Barbara Ann Kay that made any reference to something called the Chivalry Factor as a reason for the differential selection of women to prosecute and incarcerate. So there is very little mentioned there.

The National Commission on Criminal Justice Standards and Goals, which was put out last year, as a guideline, has a few pages devoted to women. They, in there, make mention of the fact there is very little research, and much needs to be done on women in the system.

There is some research done. Warren Tassalman did a study in 1965, and they were dealing with the homosexual problems of women in the institution, and that was quite an undertaking. They had full cooperation of the Administration in doing that.

Other than that, what you might call "Research", in the general sense, have been from Citizens

Councils.

In March of 1972, the Washington Citizens Council had done a study and issued a report which condemned the institutions in Washington, D. C., and condemned the Halfway Houses there, and as I understand it, condemned the Alderson Institution, saying there was a discriminatory pattern of neglect of the women inmates of these institutions. That was one thing.

The John Howard Association did an eighteen month study of the Dwight Institution in Illinois, and that was issued in about April of 1973, when they came up with ideas that the rules were stricter and they should be lessened; that the evening meal should be served at a later time, because it was served at 3:00 in the afternoon; and that the women had not any meaningful vocational training programs at the institution. Those were some of the kinds of things they came up with.

But these are the reports that have been done.

From my experience in the institutions, the problems that women seem to have in prisons are, first of all, in our society, women tend to be the ones that raise children. So when they leave for the institutions,



they are leaving their children, and very often the children will go to a welfare department for placement. If the woman doesn't have a husband or doesn't have a family member who can take over the raising of the child, then the welfare department would place it in a foster home. In many cases this would mean that the woman may not see the child again. So this would be a problem they would have.

And visiting might be a problem, because in an institution, like in California, Frontera is in one part of the state, and the women may be from the other part of the state. It would be very difficult for them, if they are poor, to see the children.

There are approximately sixty-seven per cent of the women incarcerated in this country who do have one or more children. They may or may not be legitimate, but that is a fact.

So this would create some problems in the inmates' minds, of being able to be with their children.

Another problem that is very prevalent is the lack of vocational training programs. Men have not all that great vocational training programs for them, but women have been neglected more. That is partially because

they are a minority of the inmates incarcerated in this country. For every one women incarcerated, there are thirty men. So there is a discrepancy there.

But the women do have a lot of training skills that are directed toward helping them with domestic skills. The traditional role of women in this country has been on a domestic basis. So in the institution, that kind of thing is carried over.

For example, a lot of institutions will have something like sewing. Louisiana has that kind of a system.

In Mississippi women do canning and sewing of the inmates' uniforms.

In Tennessee there are some clerical skills taught to the women.

In Minnesota there is a key punch program, which I understand they have at Alderson also, and they have food service for the women.

In Minnesota they have an off-grounds vocational training program, where the women can go and try to develop aptitudes along the lines of something other than these domestic skills. That is prevalent.

But many institutions for women in this

country lack that kind of thing.

In South Carolina women are taught things like money management, child care, and being located near Burlington, they work in a drapery factory.

In Frontera the woman can be a nurse's aid or licensed vocational nurse's aid or go into a cosmetology program.

One thing about being a licensed vocational aid or nurse's aid, if you are in on a drug offense, it would be very difficult for you to get a job, because no one would want to hire a former drug addict to deal with drugs.

In Nebraska there is a food service program.

In Arkansas, prior to 1967, when Tom Murton took over as Warden for the black women there, they had, I don't know what you call the therapy program, but they had the women clipping the grass. But they never gave them clippers or lawn mowers. They were clipping the grass with their fingernails. By the time he took over, the women's fingernails were worn down to the stubs. So that was one kind of program down there.

There is a fine line drawn between

vocational training programs and maintenance programs. Very often a food service program will train someone to not only cook, but also to feed the population of the institution. That would be one way to do both things.

But in that respect, sometimes when the women are paid, the kind of wages they get paid for the work they do is very, very little, and this would obviously be because of the lack of funding from the Legislatures. But there is an inequity in the amount of money they would be paid, for their labors.

In Georgia, I know until 1972, the Central State Hospital ran the institution for women, and as a result of an agreement in that state, the women work in the kitchen and the laundry of Central State Hospital, and receive no pay at all. So this would be a problem for those women.

Again, the kinds of jobs they would be doing is institutional maintenance.

But in Iowa, they receive anywhere from 30¢ to \$1.40 a day.

The last report I read about Alderson, and that may be different now, they were getting anywhere from 19¢ to 47¢ an hour for working either at the key punch or in

the garment factory.

In terms of work release, which is one way inmates have been kept more in touch with the community, women have suffered badly.

In Nebraska, men have worked on work release since 1967, but for women that only happened in 1971. So there is a discrepancy there. The men in that state now are allowed to live off the prison grounds, but the women have to return to the prison. So there is a need for some kind of a center in that state for women.

This is only one example, but that kind of thing is elsewhere in the country as well. There is very little work release, and most of the time much less than ten per cent of the women are affected.

In Minnesota, out of a population of fifty, there may be two or three women. That is about four per cent of the population.

In South Carolina there is a much greater percentage.

But generally it is very low, four, five or six per cent of the women.

Women have become in the past few years an awakened minority. They are realizing the kind of situation

they are in. Where women were once traditionally passive, they are becoming more aggressive in the role in the institution. And this has been manifested in the number of strikes and riots that have occurred.

For example, in terms of strikes, I know that in 1971, in September at Alderson, there was a strike and the inmates sat down on a four day strike, aimed at the Attica Holocaust. They were very upset about that. They also were for the end of censorship of mail, and for having more vocational training programs at that institution.

In Frontera, in 1970, the inmates gave Virginia Carlson a list of grievances, mainly dealing with what happened in the kitchen. They wanted uniforms for the people working in the kitchen. They wanted to know who their supervisor was, and they wanted the attitudes of the staff in the kitchen changed toward the inmates. This kind of thing is the kind of grievance they listed.

In Detroit, in May of 1972, there was a chain hoist that broke in the laundry room and this led to sixty-five women working in that institution walking off the job. This led to a safety inspection.

There have been other riots or different

kinds of disturbances in women's institutions. For example, in Tennessee in 1971, the women protested being treated like animals.

In Georgia in 1973, in January, the inmate grievances consisted of something like they didn't like the dirty working conditions, they didn't think there was a good enough communication between the staff and the inmates, and they felt there was not enough in the way of vocational and educational training programs for the inmates.

The same kinds of things have happened in Oklahoma, in Philadelphia, and in Massachusetts.

So there have been some problems that have been created, and women have responded to them in their own way.

MR. COULTER: You have been discussing a great many institutions, I am sure, to provide information about women in prisons, generally.

In particular, what relevance do you think these problems may have for the Federal Reformatory for Women at Alderson?

MS. BAUNACH: First of all, I have to say, before I say anything on that, I haven't been to Alderson, and I would like to see it. I know there are many people

in this room who are much more qualified to deal with Alderson directly, than I. So I can only report from things I have read from your reports that I have read, and from people I have talked to as well.

One of the problems I would see at Alderson would be its remoteness. I think that is probably a pretty well accepted thing. It is pretty far away from where the women would live, as Ms. McLaughlin said, they coming from all over the country. That makes it difficult, if you want your relatives to visit you.

The work furlough program would be a difficult one to implement at that institution, because it is fairly remote from lines of transportation, and it is fairly removed from Charleston or Washington, D. C., or any other larger area where women could get some off-grounds vocational training programs. So these would be the kinds of problems that I would see there, along that line.

One of the things I know would apply to Alderson, too, is that there are a great many minority inmates in the institutions. There is slightly over fifty per cent of the inmates in the country who are black, classed as black. Whether or not they are actually black,



you have to do the actual statistical breakdown. But they are classed as minority blacks. This is characteristic at Alderson as well.

Now as I understand it, at Alderson there are a good many white staff from around Alderson, and all the inmates are from an urban area. So there have been reports there were racial problems there between the staff and inmates, because the inmates feel they aren't being understood, and it would be better to have some more minority group members represented on the staff.

But again, as I say, the other people from Alderson would be better able to speak to that kind of situation at that particular institution.

MR. COULTER: Are there correctional efforts that might be undertaken for women in prison that are more appropriate than practices or efforts that are being undertaken nationally, now?

MS. BAUNACH: There are several directions or trends occurring in corrections for men, and I think it is spilling over, to a certain extent, for women. One of them is the co-ed prison. There is one in Forth Worth, in Texas, one in Framingham, Massachusetts, and Illinois is creating one, I believe, in Vienna.

The notion there is there are many women in the free world. If we are going to equip the inmates of both sexes to go back and deal with the opposite sex appropriately, then it would be better that they could work together and live together -- I mean not live in the same housing unit -- but live on the same grounds and speak to each other and see one another in the institution itself. This would be a far more realistic way of dealing with that kind of problem. So this is one of the notions underlying that.

But more than that, there is an economic gain in it. Framingham was formerly an old female institution in Massachusetts. It was reported that they were spending, I think something like \$20,000 on the inmates, and that was far beyond what they were spending for the men. They were spending something like \$6,000.

So if you combine the inmates in the same institution, it might be economically more feasible to provide programs for both sexes that would be of equal value, so that only women are getting a business course and men the graphic arts. That would be one approach of doing it from an economic standpoint. This would give you more vocational training courses and programs for both sexes.

Another possibility which hasn't occurred for women is the inmate counseling notion. There is one in Kentucky now, and there are some more. But the idea is to create a more responsible individual, and one way to do that would be to allow the inmate to make decisions in the institution, of some kind.

Sitting on an advisory council may give the inmate some kind of a vested interest in what is going on.

I know there is an inmate council at Frontera, and at several other women's institutions.

But this is a kind of direction that one might take along that line.

The whole notion of the work furlough program for women, opening that up, would be a good tie with the community.

And of course the other along that same line is the community corrections idea. This is becoming more prevalent for men and for women.

There are very few halfway houses for women in the country. I know, in Minnesota, they are doing something called the Property Offenders Program, where only property offenders can participate. They would stay in the

institution for the first eight to twelve weeks, and then would be sent back to the free world, where they would be making restitution, for example, but living in their own community, so they could deal more directly with the problems of their own family and whatever other problems they could come in contact with.

This has been seen as a more realistic way to deal with inmates.

The National Commission on Criminal Justice Standards and Goals did say the women should be considered more in light of community based corrections programs and that there was a need for more vocational training programs and that these things should be extended and that women's aptitudes and abilities should be taken into consideration, much more than they are now.

With the changing role of women in American society, they aren't housewives and cooks only, any more. They are very often the bread winners in the family. Especially a lot of inmates are like that.

So this is the kind of direction that the national groups that deal with corrections would see that we should be going for women. I would say they are becoming trends in this country.

MR. COULTER: Thank you. I have no further questions.

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: Do the Advisory Committee members have any questions?

MR. PITTS: I have several questions, Mr. Chairman.

Ms. Baunach, from your studies and your knowledge, whatever that might be, of Alderson, could you, on the basis of that, or have you on the basis of your knowledge and your studies of Alderson, drawn a conclusion as to the attitude of the staff personnel at Alderson toward blacks, minorities, or can you do that?

MS. BAUNACH: Are you saying what do I think the attitude of the staff is toward the inmates in that institution?

MR. PITTS: Yes.

MS. BAUNACH: Well, I think, you know, if you have a question, the best thing to do is ask the people with the answer. I am giving you secondhand knowledge, and I can't really tell you what they are saying.

I am telling you about the reports that have been written, about what they are saying.

I would be very reluctant to draw any

particular conclusions along that line.

I would say you should ask the staff, or ask the inmates how they perceive the staff, and ask the staff how they perceive the inmates.

MR. PITTS: That is all.

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: Thank you very much, Ms. Baunach.

[Witness excused]

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: The next segment of our hearing will deal with conditions at Alderson, generally, as viewed through the eyes of residents at the institution itself.

We have divided this into categories, for areas of explanation. The first, in the area of Discipline, are panelists who will all appear at the same time in the category, and we would ask that their appearance now here be arranged for, whatever that requires. They are Jodie Harris, Barbara Cochran, Bertha Allen, Maria Perry, and Christine Lancaster.

All of these witnesses will have an opportunity to present their views and respond to our questions. In the interest of saving as much time as possible in the proceeding, and being as expeditious as we

can, they are being called as members of this panel, regarding disciplinary matters.

RESIDENT PANELS

DISCIPLINE

MR. COULTER: We have already established your names for the Reporter, but I think it would be a good idea, now that the people have taken their seats again, if you would each introduce yourselves, just state your full name, so that the people here will know who you are.

MS. PERRY: Maria Perry.

MS. ALLEN: Bertha Allen.

MS. HARRIS: Jodie Harris.

MS. COCHRAN: Barbara Cochran.

MS. LANCASTER: Christine Lancaster.

MR. COULTER: What I would like to do is to direct a few questions to each of you, individually, first, and then perhaps have more of a discussion situation. I would hope that if someone has something to say about a particular question that I ask one individual, that they would just go ahead and offer whatever information they have.

I would like to first direct a few questions

to Ms. Harris. Could you describe where you are housed or confined now at the Reformatory?

MS. HARRIS: Yes. I am confined in Maximum Security Cottage 27. It is an extension of the behavior modification building in Davis Hall. It is behind a steel fence, and we are allowed to be out of our rooms certain hours during the day, and we have very little privileges outside.

MR. COULTER: You referred to the maximum security area, and you referred to a fence. What exactly is that? Could you describe that somewhat in more detail, please?

MS. HARRIS: Well, there are three buildings, which are each separate buildings. Naturally, in the rooms that we are in, in 27, we have pots, to go in our room. We don't have bathroom privileges.

We are out of our rooms from 6:00 in the morning until 11:00 at night. But we are all behind a tall steel fence, with barbed wire on the top. We are confined from the rest of the Reservation. We have no association with the general population.

MR. COULTER: Are these three cottages or this area behind this fence what is known as the special



treatment unit?

MS. HARRIS: Yes, sir. It is. Behavior modification, and also mental health, which is Cottage 26.

MR. COULTER: We will be coming back to Cottage 26. But how long have you been in this special treatment unit?

MS. HARRIS: I have been in there since January, 1973, when I first went into the mental health program.

MR. COULTER: But you have not been there continuously since that time?

MS. HARRIS: No. I have been transferred.

MR. COULTER: How long have you been there continuously, to date?

MS. HARRIS: This time, I have been back from Chicago five weeks. But prior to that, I was locked down five months in more or less solitary confinement; three months in solitary confinement in a room, and then two months I worked on the A Unit.

In nine months I have not, until I was moved to 27, had no fresh air or been outside.

MR. COULTER: I was having some difficulty following that. What you were starting to describe, I

believe, is what is known as the behavior treatment program. Could you outline just very briefly what that program is, as you understand it?

MS. HARRIS: It consists strictly of being locked down. You have no counseling, no therapy, or nothing of this kind, and in fact if you try to get something, you have to act retarded. In other words, you have to perform, to get somebody up there to talk to.

MR. COULTER: But what do you mean by being "locked down"?

MS. HARRIS: You are locked in a room, twenty-four hours a day, on Level 1.

MR. COULTER: Are you released for any reason out of your room?

MS. HARRIS: To go to the -- to take your shower once a day. Sometimes it is two or three days before you get a shower. It depends on whether the MCOs are available or not. They have to have a man to open the doors.

MR. COULTER: I would like to come back to you.

But, Ms. Perry, you are in the behavior treatment program?

MS. PERRY: Yes.

MR. COULTER: Could you describe how you happened to be placed in that program and how you have been treated since you have been there?

MS. PERRY: I was placed in the program -- I was written up for an incident report on my baby, from the Captain of the Supervisors. I mean the officers said that I threatened to kill my baby. He placed me there for my baby's protection.

When I met the Team, they said they referred me to the special unit.

Since I have been in Alderson, West Virginia, I will admit I have been somewhat of a problem, because I have a bit of a temper.

The Team, each time I would get an incident report, they told me they would put me on 90 days probation and if I got in any more trouble, they were going to put me in that program.

The last incident report was my last thing. That is what they did. I have been through it. I am still going through it.

MR. COULTER: What happened or what happens when you are placed in the treatment program? What has

happened to you?

MS. PERRY: Mentally?

MR. COULTER: No. What has happened in terms of being locked in your room?

Ms. Harris was describing being locked in a room. Can you describe what has happened to you?

MS. PERRY: Since I have been locked behind that ten foot fence, it has given me the outlook of having no emotional feelings at all.

MR. COULTER: How long did you remain in the status of being locked in your room twenty-four hours a day?

MS. PERRY: Three weeks.

MR. COULTER: Did you then move to another level?

MS. PERRY: Yes. I moved to another level, and I stayed in my room for twenty-two hours a day. They let me out for two hours a day for hygiene, and stuff like that. The rest of the other twenty-two hours I was just locked down.

MR. COULTER: Do you know what is going to happen from here on out, as long as you are in the program; that is, do you know what the treatment practice is going to consist of?

MS. PERRY: No. See, they have me -- I don't know what they are going to do when I finish the program. They put me up there and they seem to have forgotten about me, unless I ask to see somebody. Unless they hear from me, you know, the better off, I guess, they feel they are.

MR. COULTER: Are you still in the status of being locked in a room twenty-two hours a day?

MS. PERRY: No. I would say about sixteen hours a day, or seventeen hours a day.

MR. COULTER: Do you know how much longer you will continue in that status?

MS. PERRY: Until May 29th.

MR. COULTER: Then will you be placed in another status?

MS. PERRY: Yes.

MR. COULTER: What will that be?

MS. PERRY: Level 4. They say it is from 6:00 in the morning until 10:00 at night. After 10:00 at night anyone in their right mind would be asleep anyway. So after that you are -- you know, but you are still locked behind that fence. You can't go where you want to go, or anything.

MR. COULTER: When you are in the first two levels, where you are locked in the cell twenty-two or twenty-three or twenty-four hours a day, are you ever permitted to go outside the building on a regular basis for exercise?

MS. PERRY: No.

MR. COULTER: Do you ever go to the library?

MS. PERRY: No. In Davis Hall, you are not permitted to have none of the regular -- what word do they use --

MR. COULTER: Privileges?

MS. PERRY: Yes. Privileges that the rest of the Reservation has.

MR. COULTER: Do you do any work while you are there?

MS. PERRY: Yes. You clean up the pot where you are living.

MR. COULTER: How long does that take?

MS. PERRY: As long as it takes you to work.

MR. COULTER: Is it twenty minutes or do you spend a long time?

MS. PERRY: No. I like to get things done. I do them rather quickly.

MR. COULTER: So it is not a day-long job.

MS. PERRY: No.

MR. COULTER: Is there anything else that you do while you are in this program?

MS. PERRY: You can play cards, you know, mess around with the other inmates that is up there with you.

MR. COULTER: Do they have counseling sessions?

MS. PERRY: Do they use that word down there? I didn't know they counseled anybody.

MR. COULTER: Was there any other kind of treatment or anything that you might call treatment that you might say would be designed to help the inmates in the program?

MS. PERRY: In the program? No. The only type of treatment they have up there is they make sure they give you three square meals a day, and a bath.

MR. COULTER: Ms. Lancaster, were you at one time in this same program?

MS. LANCASTER: Yes. I was in it before I made parole.

MR. COULTER: Could you describe, just to

summarize, so the people will understand, just briefly how you happened to get into the treatment program in Davis Hall?

MS. LANCASTER: Well, I was violated from the halfway house. When I came back to the institution in the beginning of March, they put me into the program.

I asked them why. They couldn't give me a reason. They just said, where violators had to go through the program.

MR. COULTER: You were on parole at the time?

MS. LANCASTER: No. I was just at the halfway house. I hadn't made parole.

So I stayed locked down for a week, and the management team recommended that I get put through the behavior program.

MR. COULTER: Before this, had you been placed in Davis Hall for rule infractions or disciplinary reasons?

MS. LANCASTER: When I was down here before. Yes.

MR. COULTER: Could you explain how the disciplinary procedure works? What happens if someone



thinks you have broken a rule?

MS. LANCASTER: It is the officer's word against yours. If the officer believes you have broken the rule, then the rule is broken. They take you in a room in Davis Hall. You meet the Team. They tell you what action is going to be taken. That is it. You don't have any say-so whatever.

MR. COULTER: Let me get a little detail. A charge is written, did you say? Is that what someone has called an incident report?

MS. LANCASTER: Right. The officer writes the report on the rule that you are supposed to have broken in the institution, one of the institutional rules.

The MCO, a Lieutenant, usually comes and takes you to Davis Hall. You lay stripside for how many days --

MR. COULTER: What is "stripside"?

MS. LANCASTER: It is a room behind -- first of all, it is behind a glass door, and then a door with just nothing but bars on it, then a steel door, and there is nothing in the room but a bed, a very thick window, and a little pot.

MR. COULTER: This is something that might

be called a cell?

MS. LANCASTER: Right. A cell.

MR. COULTER: So when you are saying you are put in strip side, you mean you are put into one of these cells. Are there more than one of these cells?

MS. LANCASTER: Yes. I think there are five of them.

MR. COULTER: What happens next in the disciplinary procedure? You have gotten an incident report and you have been placed in Davis Hall. What happens next?

MS. LANCASTER: The Team meets on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. If they feel like they want to, the Team will -- say if you go in there on a Tuesday and the Team meets tomorrow. If they feel like they want you to meet the Team, you do, or if they don't, you might wait until Friday or Monday.

MR. COULTER: What is the Team?

MS. LANCASTER: An adjustment committee. The officer that writes the report on you is usually never present. I have never had an incident where the officer has been present, so I could defend myself against what she is saying.

They decide what action should be taken against you, whether you should be given probation or restriction or be put through the program, or whatever.

MS. HARRIS: It is a Kangaroo Court.

MR. COULTER: Are you permitted as a matter of right to have your own witnesses?

MS. LANCASTER: No. At one time they did let the Council members out of each cottage meet the Team with you, one Council member. I don't know why, but they stopped that.

MR. COULTER: Was this to be a witness, or to represent you?

MS. LANCASTER: Just to represent you, because some girls can't relate. They would get in there and they would get scared right away. So the Councilmen would go and bat for them.

But you don't have any witnesses, because, like I said before, the officer's word is the law.

MR. COULTER: Is anything done to explain any legal rights to you, when you go in, to meet the Team?

MS. LANCASTER: They read the incident report to you, and that is it; ask you what do you have to say about this, and whatever you say doesn't make any

difference. I mean they just take their own action.

MR. COULTER: What kind of action can they take? What does the treatment Team then do?

MS. LANCASTER: Well, they can restrict you from going to the commissary, restrict you from open campus or recreational privileges, give you 6:00 locks, which you are locked in the cottage from 6:00 one night until 6:00 the next morning, or else they can have you go through the behavior program.

MR. COULTER: That is the program that Ms. Harris and Ms. Perry were describing?

MS. LANCASTER: Right.

MR. COULTER: Is there any way to appeal? Can you appeal a decision?

MS. LANCASTER: No.

MR. COULTER: I think that is a good outline. These are all rules, I presume.

I would like to ask Bertha Allen, whether or not you received a set of rules and regulations when you arrived at the Reformatory?

MS. ALLEN: When I arrived at the Reformatory in August of '73, I did not receive what is known as a policy statement. Like I was about -- well, I would have

been out of orientation status and on my job and on the Reservation for something like a period of about ninety days before I did receive a set of --

MR. COULTER: You did finally get one?

MS. ALLEN: Yes.

MR. COULTER: What is this that you got?

Can you describe it?

MS. ALLEN: Yes. It is a booklet of green paper, and everything as written in it is known as the Policy Statement. They are issued from the Bureau of Prisons, and it is just a set of rules that you are supposed to live by.

MR. COULTER: Is this one, or something like this? [Indicating]

MS. ALLEN: Well, the inside, the green paper. Yes. That is the policy statement.

MR. COULTER: Do you get notice or get notified of changes that are made in these rules?

MS. ALLEN: Yes. They do notify you. They will tell you that -- they send new policy statements to the cottages.

MR. COULTER: Did you get anything, say, this size, something smaller, that would list "Do's and

Don'ts", and what the infractions are that you could be punished for?

MS. ALLEN: I have never received one, and I have never received anything that would tell me the do's and don'ts of the institution, because to date I have never received an incident report. And this is all the infractions of the rules, printed on the back of this incident report.

MR. COULTER: Is that what inmates tend to use, or residents, as they are called at Alderson, to know what the do's and don'ts are?

MS. ALLEN: Yes. They have to. Because other than that, you don't know a rule until you have broken it.

MR. COULTER: And that is just because the infractions are listed on the back of the incident report. Is that what you are saying?

MS. ALLEN: Right.

MR. COULTER: Just to clarify, though, some of the do's and don'ts are contained in the policy statement, aren't they?

MS. ALLEN: Yes. I think they are. About getting up and making your bed up by 8:00, and so on. I

think they are included.

MR. COULTER: I would like to go now to Barbara Cochran. Where are you presently confined, and how do you happen to have been placed there?

MS. COCHRAN: Well, I am in Davis Hall, the behavior program. On February 2nd I was brought to Alderson. They put me in the strip side, the "Hold", for six days. And then Dr. Williams and Mr. Phillips, who run the behavior program, said they were going to put me through the program.

So in about a week they moved me out of strip side and moved me to Step 1, and I started going through the program. You have two weeks on 1 and three on 2 and four on Step 3 and four weeks on Step 4. Right now I am on Step 4.

I talked to Dr. Ream two days ago and asked him about what was going to happen after my thirteen weeks in the program.

He said I would have to do a year on Step 4. I asked him why? He said because of my time, my record. But I have already gotten my time for that, in Court.

MR. COULTER: When you say you have "gotten

your time", what do you mean?

MS. COCHRAN: The thirty-five to life for my offense that brought me to Alderson.

MR. COULTER: You mean your sentence.

MS. COCHRAN: Yes.

MR. COULTER: Do you know if there is anything you can do or anything that you must do to earn your release from Davis Hall?

MS. COCHRAN: Well, I talked to him about that, and he said, "There is nothing I can do". Like where Jodie Harris is at, in 27.

They say on the program paper, like we have outside privileges and things, but we don't, because there is no MCO to cover us.

MR. COULTER: What is an "MCO"?

MS. COCHRAN: It is a guard.

MR. COULTER: A correctional officer?

MS. COCHRAN: Right.

MR. COULTER: Ms. Perry, you are adding something, and it is very difficult to hear you.

MS. PERRY: You said what do you have to do to get out of the program, and I said lay down and play dead.



MR. COULTER: What do you mean by that?

MS. PERRY: As long as you keep your freedom of speech to yourself, you are all right.

MS. HARRIS: Amen!

MR. COULTER: Can you explain that a little further?

MS. PERRY: In the program, the piece of paper, I suppose -- I have never seen nothing saying about no program, or what it is supposed to be.

Like you mentioned the counseling and stuff like that. If you have to see one of their officers that is supposed to be in charge of the program, they are always busy.

The officers in West Virginia know how to tiptoe through you quicker than anybody else.

MS. HARRIS: They try their best to stay away from you.

But then they put us in Davis Hall, because we are supposed to be dangerous. That is what it seems like.

When they come on Level 1, they had to have a man to let you out to go to the bathroom. There is a latrine inside the room on Level 1. But in order to take

a bath, there has to be a man there. In order to be fed, there has to be a man there. In order to do anything, there has to be a man there.

It makes me feel like I am dangerous, where... I know I am not.

MR. COULTER: Does that procedure cause a problem in terms of the frequency that you are allowed out to take showers?

MS. COCHRAN: Just like I had dental and medical appointments that had to be postponed because they didn't have a man to come and get me.

Then like on visits; one time a visitor waited an hour and a half, and another time two hours, because there is nobody to go to Davis Hall and get me.

MR. COULTER: Someone would have to come to Davis Hall and get you for a visit?

MS. HARRIS: And escort you to the visitor's room, to the hospital, or wherever you have to go.

MS. PERRY: There has been a woman down there that has acted a fool. But there has to be a man there for everything. They count you at night. This has to be a man.

On the level I am on, they don't have.

latrines inside the rooms. I am not going to put one of their tin pots, where everyone uses it, and they don't sterilize them, and someone else has to go use them.

MR. COULTER: What are you talking about?

MS. HARRIS: That little tin thing they have, they say you can put in your room if you have to go use the bathroom at night. During the night, they can't let you out of the room unless there is a man there, you know. And they give you these pots in your room. That is what they call them. The people who was there before you used them, and they didn't get sterilized.

MR. COULTER: Are these in the rooms that don't have toilets inside of them?

MS. HARRIS: Yes.

MR. COULTER: Do you know how many rooms there are like that?

MS. PERRY: There is nine on Level 3.

MS. HARRIS: Cottage 27 doesn't have any restroom, no bathroom facilities at all in the rooms. They all have pots in the rooms, in 27.

MR. COULTER: At this point, I am going to kind of open it up and let the Committee members direct questions, or permit you to bring up things that are on

your minds.

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: Do any of the Advisory Committee members have any questions to direct to the witnesses, or any of them?

MR. PITTS: I note inside this folder, entitled "Orientation Information", there is a slip that requires a resident's name. Do you, at the time of orientation, sign this kind of slip?

MS. ALLEN: I didn't, because I never received one.

MR. PITTS: Did you at anytime sign that slip?

MS. ALLEN: No. I haven't.

MR. PITTS: You say you received this information, at anytime?

MS. ALLEN: I received it after I had been on the Reservation approximately ninety days.

MR. PITTS: Has anyone else received it?

MS. LANCASTER: I haven't received it yet.

MR. PITTS: Have you ever seen any slips that resemble these?

MS. PERRY: Yes.

MS. HARRIS: We have seen them.

MR. PITTS: Where?

MS. HARRIS: Some are hanging on the boards that they have, you know, that they put little information on the boards.

MR. PITTS: Bulletin Boards?

MS. HARRIS: Yes.

MS. ALLEN: I live on the Reservation, and the general population there has a copy of the policy statements in the office. I can't speak for the rest of the cottages, but in the cottage that I am in, you know, if you want to look through it, or anything, it is there.

MS. HARRIS: But it doesn't make any difference about the rules and regulations, because they have "Different strokes for different folks", anyway, because there are numerous women in the institution that can commit many, many infractions and never be put through the program.

MS. PERRY: They never get an incident report.

MS. HARRIS: There are women that are brought directly in from the streets, from the Courts, that are put in the program, for what reason no one knows.

MR. PITTS: And this is arbitrarily decided

by someone, either a correctional officer or someone unknown.

MS. HARRIS: Right.

MS. PERRY: Would not that determine how the marshals described you to the institution, when you went in?

MS. HARRIS: No. Not necessarily.

MR. PITTS: The next question I am going to ask might be somewhat difficult. I want you to try to help me.

Are the bulletin boards on the campus for the residents, or for the supervisors and other staff people?

MS. PERRY: The bulletin boards where they have the memorandum that they write up, is usually for the residents.

In our cottage it was, before they took me on the reservation.

MR. PITTS: Would most of the residents understand that this information, once it is placed on the bulletin boards, is it understood by the residents that this is directed toward the residents, or is it a policy for the staff? Is it very clear?

MS. ALLEN: Let me answer that in this way: The only time that the policy statements are placed on a bulletin board would be if a new one is issued.

Now, as far as the policy statements, as I said, I kept on hearing people talk about policy statements, policy statements. I didn't even know what they were talking about.

Then finally I asked one day, "What is a policy statement?"

One of the officers said, "Oh, you mean you don't know about the policy statement?", and she carried me in the office and showed me the notebook with the policy statements in it.

MS. PERRY: Mr. Pitts, see, that orientation that they have there, when you come in, they are supposed to give you one of those.

In the cottage they have the policy statements, a notebook with the policy statement in it. But they are supposed to give you one of those in orientation.

The one they have in the cottage is not on the bulletin board. It is in the office. So if there is something you don't remember or you don't know about, you ask the officer, and they are supposed to let you know.

But the orientation folder they are supposed to give you when you are in orientation.

MR. PITTS: I want to know whether you were told by other residents or by staff or counselors the outlay of the behavior modification program? Who explains that to you when you first go there? Does the counselor sit down with you?

MS. PERRY: No. When you first go there, I suppose the unit manager, Bill Phillips, is supposed to, or Dr. Ream. They are supposed to.

As for me, myself, I picked up on it from the officers that were working there, and the things I wasn't supposed to do that I had done, they would say, "You are not supposed to do that. It is a rule".

I would tell them that nobody ever told me about no rule.

But I suppose the officers there that is ahead of the behavior program are supposed to tell you about it.

MR. PITTS: As I understand it, you indicated that you have to spend "X" number of days in certain kinds of confinement. Were you told, upon being put into the program or going into the program, now, that "you are going



to spend "X" number days in twenty-four hour confinement, "X" number of days in twenty-two hour confinement?"

MS. PERRY: No.

MR. PITTS: Were you told that by staff people?

MS. PERRY: No. When I, myself, was put through the program, as though I knew you were supposed to be in Davis Hall behind ninety-nine different locks, no one ever explained to me I was supposed to be locked down for twenty-four hours for three weeks, or twenty-three hours for three weeks, and twenty-two hours for the next three weeks.

See, no one has ever explained that to me. It has just been there.

MS. HARRIS: If you knock on the door a little too loud, or a little too long or hard, trying to get the attention of an officer, to get something that you need or want, you know, or if you want to speak with a member of the staff or somebody on the phone, and in order to get their attention you have to practically break down the door before they ever come to see what is wrong, or what you want -- I mean you start out knocking, you know, normally, and eventually you get to knocking harder.

If you knock too tough, this will cause you to stay back in the level, because you are pounding on the door, and you are not acting normal. You are being a disturbance. I mean the slightest thing. I mean you are held back on the level, if you have an argument with another girl.

You can't be a normal person, a human being, that can argue with someone -- you just can't do these things.

And you can't have an argument and have it settled or whatever and let it go at that. You will lose your level, and you will go back to Level 1, where you have to start all over again, and go through all this stuff, and in the first place, you don't even know what you are in the program for, to begin with.

MR. PITTS: One other question, Mr. Chairman. I hate to be dilatory here, but I want to understand it fully.

One of you spoke, and indicated that you were told that your time or period of time in this confinement area would be longer because of the sentence that had been imposed upon you by the Court. Which one? I don't remember.

MS. COCHRAN: Me.

MR. PITTS: Is this the general rule there, that if you have a long period for sentence, that the time you spend in the confinement area is longer?

MS. COCHRAN: No. There is women on the Reservation that have more time than I do, or just as much. But there is a few of us they have singled out -- Dr. Ream said I would have to have my visits in the Ad. Building. There is a few other ladies that have the same problem.

At first, I thought it was the Davis Hall Team Committee -- this was the way they put it to me-- Dr. Ream and Mr. Phillips -- that I was going to have to do a year in the program.

Then the other day, when I talked to him, he said, "No. It was the management team", which is from the Reservation, which I don't know who they are or what it is. I have never seen them or they have never seen me.

I said, "I haven't got any disciplinaries. I went through your program with no problems". I said, "Isn't there a way I can knock that year down some?"

He said, "No way", no matter how good I am, there is nowhere I could go now.

You are out from your room, but you are

still locked in the building, you know, behind the fence, with no privileges to the outside Reservation or anything.

He said the only way I could go was back again. If I get in trouble, I have to start all over again. But there is nowhere else I can go.

I said, well I explained to him there was some there with more time than me.

They don't give you much. They tell you now it is going to be, and that is it. There is nowhere you can go, and nobody to talk with.

From what I gather, Ream and Phillips runs Davis Hall, and what they say goes. If they say you are going to stay six months, nine months, or a year, there is nothing you can do about it.

You can get an attorney and probably try to take it to Court and spend months and a whole lot of money.

MS. HARRIS: You are still going to be in the program, though.

MS. COCHRAN: Maybe you can cause some trouble, and they can float you, where they will slip you out in the middle of the night, or at 4:00 in the morning. You will float around from one County Jail to the next for thirty days or sixty days or ninety days, whatever they feel.

Maybe you will come back, and maybe you won't. Maybe you will go to another institution.

That is another thing: A lot of women that wanted to talk to you all were a little afraid; they were going to the Board, or they didn't want a problem, or they were afraid of repercussions, because they do have a habit of disappearing.

He was asking me the other day, "Do you meet a team or do you go to Court before they float you?"

No. They just come in in the morning or in the afternoon and pack you up.

MS. HARRIS: That is what happened to me last summer. I headed a peaceful work stoppage in June of 1973. I am a key tape operator. The girls in APD had a beef and they know I am not afraid of the staff and I will stand up and talk, because I am a very caring person. I care about my fellow prisoners, and the inhumane treatment and the mental treatment placed upon them, regardless of what it costs me, which has cost me plenty. I am going to speak up for them, and it doesn't make any difference what they do to me.

So I led the demonstration, and at 4:00 in the morning they took me out to Dehoco. I was there

approximately three months.

I write articles for underground newspapers. Because I wrote these articles and exposed the institution and the things they were doing, and spoke of the legislative committee, they shipped me back to Alderson.

I had not committed any infraction, and I was put three weeks in the strip side, and then locked down three months in solitary confinement in a room, and then they put me over in the other side.

I mean you just wouldn't believe, honey, what goes on in them places, unless you was there.

MR. PITTS: Ms. Allen, I want to focus for a moment, if we can, on the racial attitudes of the staff. The time you have been there, have you drawn any opinion or any conclusion as to how white staff relates to the minority residents?

MS. ALLEN: Being quite truthful, I can't really say, you know, that I have noticed any prejudice, because myself, being completely truthful with you, I am prejudice, you know, and like they don't -- I just really and truly don't have, really, very many problems.

As far as being -- well, you know, this is

West Virginia, and there are -- it is some -- naturally, it is some. But as far as saying to an extreme or overall, I wouldn't say, at least as far as I can see, or as far as it is being directed toward me. No.

MR. PITTS: I would also like to ask that question of Ms. Perry.

MS. PERRY: Me, speaking truthfully; no. There has been a whole lot of prejudice on my part. If you asked an officer, are they prejudiced, they are going to come out and say "I have never had nothing against no black people in all my life", rather than come up and institute the way prejudice is supposed to be, you automatically take it for granted they are.

In my case, I have come across a whole lot of situations where it has been a matter as if I was in the wrong, or another inmate and the inmate was white, I was the one in the wrong.

MR. PITTS: Have you ever noticed or have you ever been able to observe a difference in treatment for, let us say, infractions or violations of the rules, that the penalty was more severe for a member of a minority?

MS. PERRY: On some. But they had used a

little common sense in the place, because they do it like this: They will give me a whole lot of punishment. They might decide to turn around and give Jodie the same thing so I wouldn't feel they were being prejudiced.

But in another case, they might differ, in two different cases. Like if it was Bertha and another white girl, they might give Bertha some and not give her any at all. It has happened. But that is a matter of the officers.

But down there, the officers is always right. They say that inmates has to be right some, too, to me. If it is a thing where there is a black inmate and a white inmate, the white inmate is right.

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: In addition to inquires by our counsel and the committee, members of the staff are also permitted to inquire of the participants. One of our staff now wants to do that. Carolyn Handy has a question to ask.

MS. HANDY: I was curious that some of you had not received this orientation book. How did you determine who was going to be on the visiting lists and writing lists?

MS. ALLEN: When I came in, they had two



called Orientation Helpers. I don't know if it is still in function or not, but they did have a group of ladies known as Big Sisters.

On the day of my arrival, the orientation helper came in and issued me some cigarettes and a slip of paper and told me to make out my correspondence list. Then the gib sisters came around and they gave out some little candy and little packs of coffee or something like that.

They told me the different things, you know, like things that I could have there and things that I couldn't have there.

It was all rather new to me, although about eight years ago I was in Alderson. I was there before. But at that time, it was just an entirely different thing.

You know, like I never heard of policy statements before, when I was there.

MS. HANDY: In other words, you were told who could visit you. You gave them an oral list of names of visitors and people you wanted to write to.

MS. ALLEN: No. Not an oral list. I made it on a piece of regular paper.

MS. HANDY: Did all of you do the same?

MS. COCHRAN: I never did receive one. The officer, either on the second or third step, found one for me, because there were certain things, like I had my robe on at 11:00, and you weren't supposed to have it on after 9:00. I didn't know. And a lot of little things.

MS. HANDY: But did you receive any outside visitors?

MS. COCHRAN: Yes. But I got a special purpose visit. One of the counselors located me. They said you are supposed to get a time sheet within thirty days. I have been there three months, and haven't received it. That is when you go to the Parole Board, and so forth.

MS. HANDY: What about the incoming mail, and the people you write to?

MS. COCHRAN: In Davis Hall, it is different from the Reservation. Especially the way I came in. I went straight to the strip side and then through the program. I didn't go through orientation or any of that. So the mail had to be -- some of my letters went through Mr. Williams, which was the case worker on campus, which I was supposed to have been in orientation there.

So they went there, and some came to

Lewisburg, and eventually it got around to me. It took about two months, but now they are all coming through the mail.

MS. ALLEN: You were asking about the mail. On the Reservation, it is a mail room in the ad. building and your letters go into the mail room. They are opened there, you know, to make sure if any money or anything like that is in it. Then that is recorded.

They have mail bags for each cottage. The mail is put into the mail bag, and brought to the cottage, locked, and an officer passes the mail out.

Like if you receive, or at least my understanding is, that if you receive legal letters or something like that, they are supposed to go to your case worker and you are to receive them unopened.

I received a letter -- I wrote to my Judge for reconsideration. When I received the letter, it was opened, you know, and like I didn't know at that particular time that it was not supposed to be opened, until it was in my presence. But this happened.

You are talking about the incoming mail. Like if they are not on your correspondence list, it has to go through your case worker. There has been a problem.

A lady was writing to me, and she wasn't on my correspondence list. Like I got one letter from her -- I am using this as an example -- today that was dated April 24th. I received one about two days later that was dated March 13th. So I don't know what the problem was, or anything.

But about the mail situation too, there are officers there. They are supposed to spot check your mail. This is my understanding. But there is one officer, like if you, you know, when you are inside, tensions are going to be running high, and when you write a letter, if you are writing to your husband or to your family, you want to be able to express yourself; you understand what I am saying? You can't express yourself freely when you know that as soon as you go downstairs and drop this letter in the mailbox somebody is going to sit there and read it.

And I have had about three of my letters returned to me and told me -- the lady told me they couldn't be sent out, because of something that I said in them.

Well, I think I used something like, I said "When I come home, if my house is not in order, it is going to be me and you". She told me I was sending a threat through the mail.

So really you can't express yourself under those terms.

And that is really the only way you have, because out of 500 women on the Reservation, they have two phone calls, and you are allowed to make one phone call a month.

MS. HANDY: This is my final question, Mr. Chairman. I just want to be clear in my head, that Davis Hall, Step 1, I think you referred to, men have to be present at all times?

MS. HARRIS: Yes, ma'am.

MS. HANDY: Does this include taking showers?

MS. HARRIS: Taking showers, the whole bit. Everything.

MR. PITTS: Have any of you had occasion to hear, for instance, from a CO or somebody else, something that you wrote in a letter? In other words, has there ever been an occasion where you wrote a letter to somebody and then you heard the same thing repeated back to you by somebody else?

MS. HARRIS: For instance, for quite some time, I wrote a lot of men in other institutions, because I write, you know, in different prison underground news-

papers, and they write me and we get a correspondence going, and change ideas. Of course some of them are quite militant.

My mail for awhile was going through the Warden and the Associate Warden, and all my mail was read and censored, and it was logged, and this and that, because I was implicated in this great mail suit against the federal government, the federal prisons.

I know they got quite an education, but these things do occur, and they especially have occurred with me. My mail has been tampered with.

I write the name on the back of the letters, and the same name on the envelope, so they will be sure to get the right letter in the right envelope. They have been switched on purpose. That has been done numerous times. Not once or twice, but something like twenty-five times or more, because I have letters in my possession to prove this at this time, right now.

You know, things are repeated, and they are read, and especially my mail has been -- I have been harassed a great deal in many ways, but especially with my mail, is one of the main things.

MS. HANDY: Do you resent having men present

at all times?

MS. HARRIS: Pardon?

MS. HANDY: Do you resent having men present in Davis Hall, at all times?

MS. HARRIS: Have I resented it? I have resented it greatly, because I have not committed any infractions in the statutes.

MS. HANDY: Do you feel it is an invasion of your privacy as a woman?

MS. HARRIS: That's right.

MS. LANCASTER: But when you get on Level 2, there don't have to be a man present, and you are the same person in Level 2 as you are on Level 1. So what is the difference?

MR. PITTS: Do all of you have counselors?

MS. HARRIS: There is counselors specifically for these units. But you have an awful hard -- you have to go through an act of Congress, Senate and everything else to get to see them.

MR. PITTS: When you are given a counselor, however that happens, are you told that the information that goes on between you and the counselor is privileged information?

MS. HARRIS: No. There is no privileges, such as that, in the institution.

MR. PITTS: Do you ever talk in confidence with a counselor, and have you had occasion to hear that through another source?

MS. HARRIS: Yes.

MR. PITTS: I have no further questions.

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: Just one or two questions, to let the Committee clarify a couple of things. To summarize, let me begin with Mrs. Lancaster. Do I understand that confinement to Davis Hall can come about by two means; (1) inclusion in or confinement in Davis Hall on arrival, for some reason other than an infraction of the rule? What was the nature of your confinement?

MS. LANCASTER: I came back to the institution in the first part of March, from the Halfway House. From admissions, they took me upstairs and locked me up. I asked them why.

They said I had to wait until Monday, so that I could talk to Dr. Ream, and they told me it had to go through management for me to move out.

I am still asking why I am locked up, because



I just got there.

They said, "Well, we will tell you on Monday".

Monday came, and dragged out until Wednesday. On Wednesday Mr. Phillips and Dr. Ream came in and told me I had to go through the program.

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: You went through the program, even though you committed no infraction of the Reformatory rules?

MS. LANCASTER: Yes.

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: You can be placed in the program because of an infraction of the rules?

MS. LANCASTER: Right.

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: Let us suppose a case where there is an altercation on the grounds, and two women are involved in that, or residents. The next day, one of them receives an infraction notice. Is that what it is called?

MS. HARRIS: An incident report.

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: Who can make that incident report, or who signs it?

MS. LANCASTER: The officer that sees the incident.

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: Suppose no officer sees the incident?

MS. LANCASTER: It doesn't go down.

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: What if it is reported by another resident?

MS. LANCASTER: No. The only thing I have ever seen about another resident is like if a resident goes to an officer and says that another woman is threatening or something like that, then there might be something. But other than that, an inmate can't report you to an officer, you know, for anything like that.

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: The notice occurs because an officer observed what happened?

MS. LANCASTER: Right.

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: Then are you ever advised he is going to make a report on you, or are you just called in before the --

MS. LANCASTER: He might say to you, "Well, okay, I am going to write an incident report on you", or else the Lieutenant comes and says, "Well, Ms. Lancaster, can I talk to you for a minute? Here is an incident report".

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: At this point, who

determines whether or not your infraction is great enough to justify, in his or her mind, placement in Davis Hall?

MS. LANCASTER: There is none. You go automatically.

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: You mean if you are involved in an incident, you couldn't be probated or returned to your normal room? You have to go to Davis Hall, for every incident?

MS. ALLEN: Like they will give you an incident report. At times there have been times, say, where the lieutenant will give you a 6:00 lock at that particular time.

But then, even if he gives you the 6:00 lock, whenever your team meets, you still have to meet the team for this incident report.

It is very seldom that the things ~~you~~ know, automatic rides would be fighting, would be two inmates closed in a room, you know, at the same time, with the door closed, or if hooch is found in your possession, or something.

Now they have added some more, to disobey a direct order, or to -- I want to use the right word -- I believe they call it insubordination to an officer.

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: An automatic ride means certainty of --

MS. ALLEN: You are certain of going to Davis Hall.

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: Who makes the determination that you go to Davis Hall?

MS. ALLEN: The team.

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: Who makes up the team?

MS. ALLEN: They have your case worker, a counselor, and an educational supervisor, and sometimes, I believe, Mr. --

MS. HARRIS: Mr. Bradford, Chief Correctional Supervisor.

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: Who decides when you get out of Davis Hall?

MS. ALLEN: The team.

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: The team decides when you go in and when you get out?

MS. ALLEN: Right.

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: In your instance, you reported, Ms. Cochran, that you have been told that you will be in the Step 4 phase of this program for a period of a year, and there is nothing you can do about that.

MS. COCHRAN: Nothing. But I never did mention the -- I never have seen them or met the team.

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: Who told you that you would have to remain there for a year?

MS. COCHRAN: Dr. Ream and Mr. Phillips.

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: Who is Mr. Phillips?

MS. COCHRAN: He is the director or manager of Davis Hall.

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: Ms. Allen, I believe you said that you were taken from the institution by reason of certain activities you engaged in --

MS. HARRIS: Correct.

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: At night, or sometime.

MS. HARRIS: Right.

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: What were the circumstances surrounding that?

MS. HARRIS: What do you mean, what was the circumstances?

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: How did you get out? Did they take you from your room and place you in the administration building and remove you in a car, or what happened?

MS. HARRIS: They took me and locked me down,

and I packed -- the officer helped me pack my clothes immediately. The next morning they got me up bright and early, about 3:00 or 3:30 or 4:00, and I got dressed, showered and what not, and they took me out to the car and to the airport in Charleston, I believe it was. I don't know the airports around here. They flew me into Cincinnati, and they wouldn't take -- I was constantly chained, handcuffed like so, all the time on the plane and everything.

When we got to the bigger airports, like in Cincinnati, they wouldn't allow me on the planes because I was chained and handcuffed. So they rented a car and took me into Ann Arbor, where I stayed the weekend, and didn't have a shower or nothing.

They took me from there to Dehoco. I was locked down in solitary confinement for a week before they let me out of there, and gave me strict warning that if I was to tell the girls their rights and what not, which I have been doing -- I wouldn't let people mess over them, and I have this bad habit of taking care of people.

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: When you were locked down at Alderson before your departure, were you told why? Did you ask, "What is this being done for?"

MS. HARRIS: Yes. I asked, you know, why

I had to be locked down.

They said they wanted me to go to the administration segregation. Either I volunteered or they were going to force me.

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: Did you object to leaving, or did you have any preference? Would you just as soon have gone?

MS. HARRIS: I wouldn't have nothing to say about it, anyway. I was going. There was no point in arguing.

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: Did you ask them where they were going to take you?

MS. HARRIS: Yes. They did tell me Dehoco. So I went to Dehoco. Then I came back three months later.

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: Are there any policies or regulations you are aware of, having to do with transfers out of Alderson?

MS. HARRIS: I don't know of any policies or anything about transfers.

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: You did not receive any hearing on whether or not --

MS. HARRIS: Definitely not. I have not met

with the team since January of 1973, and I have been locked down --

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: Then you didn't demand a hearing, either?

MS. HARRIS: I most certainly have demanded it.

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: Before you were --

MS. HARRIS: I most certainly asked. That is all that happened. I asked.

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: You asked, and they didn't answer?

MS. HARRIS: That's right. The only team I have met since I have been locked down in the program, since January of '73, was in January of 1973. That is the only time I met any team, except to go over to 27, and that was a little private deal.

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: Are those people confined in Davis Hall allowed to work at all outside of that?

MS. HARRIS: No, sir.

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: You can't work in the cafeteria?

MS. HARRIS: No. You are confined to the



building you are in.

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: There are four stages. The first phase is two weeks; the second stage is three weeks; the third step is --

MS. PERRY: Four weeks, and the fourth step is four weeks. Then you go from this little prison there to another building behind the fence, and you have to stay there until they fill you in, ready to go out on the Reservation.

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: What building is that?

MS. PERRY: 27.

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: Is there anything further, Mr. Coulter?

MR. COULTER: No.

MS. SIEDMAN: I have one question. I am not clear: Is there ever a time when an incident report is written or a charge is made where a resident is placed in Davis Hall before the treatment team?

MS. HARRIS: Definitely.

MS. SIEDMAN: Is that the procedure, first you are locked in, and while you are there, the treatment team considers whether or not you ought to be there?

MS. HARRIS: This doesn't happen all the time.

You don't always get locked in immediately upon receipt of the incident report.

MS. PERRY: It depends on what the charge is.

MS. HARRIS: It depends on who you are. "Different strokes for different folks", like I said before.

MS. SIEDMAN: Is there ever a time, to your knowledge, that anyone who has been put into Davis Hall has then had the case reviewed by the treatment team and then been released from Davis Hall because the charge was found to be inaccurate? Have you ever known of a case like that?

MS. HARRIS: I don't know --

MS. LANCASTER: They might let you go, because maybe you haven't had any incident report prior to that, or they might feel like you might not commit the same offense again.

MS. HIGGINBOTHAM: Is your food brought there to you?

MS. HARRIS: Yes.

MS. HIGGINBOTHAM: Do you eat from the barracks?

MS. HARRIS: No. We eat in our room.

MR. GIBBARD: When you are in the room, is there any opportunity to converse with other people?

MS. HARRIS: No, sir.

MS. PERRY: Yes. You scream out the window or through the wall.

MS. HARRIS: Then you get an incident report for that.

They keep charts on you, every day. Each officer at each shift writes your activities down, your behavior, your attitude, and all on the chart three times a day. I mean each officer does this.

Then these things determine whether you make your level or not, or you stay where you are at for the remainder of the period of time.

MR. BIGGARD: Are you allowed reading material?

MS. HARRIS: The books they have there has been there since the place was built. We have no new books. They have no new books at all.

MR. GIBBARD: You have access to those books?

MS. HARRIS: Yes. That has been there forever. Whenever you can get out to get them.

MR. GIBBARD: Is there any other material that is available to you, to occupy your time?

MS. HARRIS: No, sir. I have requested some law books, because my attorney was told that Davis Hall women are allowed to have these law books when they ask for them. I have asked for them, and have yet to receive them.

I have requested law books from the law library in the ad. building, and I have yet to receive any.

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: I think Mr. Coulter has a question or two.

MR. COULTER: I really want to go back and put some details on the record concerning the conditions and treatment in the segregation cells, what you have referred to as "strip side". I would like to just confine the questions very rapidly for the record to Ms. Cochran.

You have been in the segregation cell on what you call the strip side. Is that correct?

MS. COCHRAN: Yes.

MR. COULTER: When you are there, what clothing do you wear?

MS. COCHRAN: When you go to strip side, they take all your clothes and they give you, like a white

hospital gown. You have no underclothes. You are not allowed things like toothbrushes, combs, or brushes or anything with you.

There is a bed. I was only there six days. But I had two showers, because the people that run the strip side also have to run Step 3 and they don't have the time to get back there.

MR. COULTER: Are you permitted to smoke?

MS. COCHRAN: No.

MR. COULTER: Is that because it is a fire hazard?

MS. COCHRAN: No. You just don't have any privileges. You can't smoke. You can't have cigarettes or anything like that back there. Just you and the gown and writing paper and pencils.

MS. PERRY: That is the inside of the strip side. They strip you of everything.

MR. COULTER: Are you ever permitted outside your cell during the day for the purpose of walking up and down the corridor, or stretching --

MS. COCHRAN: No.

MR. COULTER: The only time you are permitted out is to bathe, or shower?

MS. HARRIS: Correct.

MS. PERRY: Whenever they get around to that.

MR. COULTER: Do you see a doctor at any time before or during your stay?

MS. PERRY: Yes. They do send one of their little nurses up to see you each morning, and if they ask you what is wrong, and you tell them, if they think you should see the doctor, they will get around to seeing you two weeks after.

If they don't think you are sick enough to see the doctor, even though you are sick, you don't see them, anyway.

MR. COULTER: There is no routine physical before you are placed in there?

MS. PERRY: No.

MR. COULTER: Are you permitted to have other reading materials, apart from items you might write on paper?

MS. COCHRAN: I have seen a couple of magazines back there.

MR. COULTER: Do you know how long inmates ordinarily, if there is such a case, stay in the segregation cell? Is a stay of six days unusually long or short?

MS. PERRY: Usually longer. Some have been there for ten or twelve days.

MS. HARRIS: At one time I stayed for three weeks.

MR. COULTER: Is there any maximum amount of time you can be held in the segregation cell?

MS. HARRIS: No. It is how long they feel you should be back there, or whenever they get around to you.

MR. COULTER: I believe you said earlier that some of those cells do not have toilet facilities or running water.

MS. HARRIS: Correct.

MS. COCHRAN: The ones that do, they cut the water off. So unless a man can get back there to turn it on, the same thing is applied.

MR. COULTER: Is there an officer stationed in that immediate area?

MS. HARRIS: No, sir.

MR. COULTER: How far away is the nearest officer?

MS. HARRIS: She is behind two closed doors and then in the A Unit.

MR. COULTER: There is one more subject that I wanted to get to, and I wanted to get back to Maria Perry's baby. You mentioned that you had a baby. Where is the baby, and what has happened to the child?

MS. PERRY: The baby is still in the prison.

MR. COULTER: How old is it?

MS. PERRY: They call it a hospital. It will be three months old the 20th of this month. But the reason is -- well, I don't have no family, and my son's grandmother wanted to take her, but the people down there they have been to so much trouble about it and everything. She is still there because they haven't been able to place her nowhere as of yet.

MR. COULTER: What do you mean about "the people down there"?

MS. PERRY: Where my son's grandmother lives. She wanted to take the baby. But in order to bring her from West Virginia to that state, I had to go through a whole lot of hassle with the Child Welfare, or something like that.

They said that they couldn't put the baby there, and just let her take care of the baby, unless they



licensed her to be a foster parent. It is a whole lot of unnecessary procedure that they go through.

And down here, while there has been someone helping me out, it seems like I had gotten a little out of line about my baby, and this way they were treating me up at the hospital about my baby. So I was supposed to have made a statement in the Warden's office.

The next thing I knew, that was my last incident report, to put me through the program.

MR. COULTER: Do you know why it is that your child couldn't be placed in a foster care through the state program, either in your home state or in West Virginia?

MS. PERRY: I don't know why they can't. Now, they are trying to get into a foster home down here, in West Virginia,

MR. COULTER: Have you been turned down on that score?

MS. PERRY: No. They just took all the time to do it. They did it when they wanted to do it, not when I asked them to do something about it.

MR. COULTER: How often do you see the baby?

MS. PERRY: Now? They take me to see her almost every day. When I first went through the program, I

the record.

MR. COULTER: Ms. Torres, I will direct a few questions to you for openers. Then I will take a back seat, and let members of the Committee ask questions of you.

Could you state your full name for the record?

MS. TORRES: My name is Doris Torres ~~Allavaro~~ *Olivero*.

MR. COULTER: What is your work or job assignment in the institution?

MS. TORRES: I am an attendant in the hospital in the institution.

MR. COULTER: How long have you worked at that job?

MS. TORRES: It will be a year, come June.

MR. COULTER: What exactly are your duties there as an attendant? What kind of work do you do?

MS. TORRES: Well, I help the patients. I take care of the babies. I do everybody else's job, sort of.

MR. COULTER: What do you mean by that?

MS. TORRES: Well, half of the girls, you

hadn't seen her for three weeks.

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: Thank you, Ms. Perry, Ms. Allen, Ms Harris, Ms. Cochran and Ms. Lancaster.

These witnesses will now be excused.

[Witnesses excused]

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: The next panel will consist of Doris Torres and Harriet Deloney, and the subject of our inquiry with these witnesses will be Health

HEALTH :

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: You are Doris Torres?

MS. TORRES: Yes.

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: Harriet Deloney was also scheduled to be a witness on this panel. Is Harriet Deloney not present?

MS. HANDY: That is correct.

MS. McLAUGHLIN: They said she wouldn't come.

MR .COULTER: If I may, I would like the record to reflect at this time that we had originally scheduled three residents to appear to discuss health problems, but unfortunately two of the three people have declined the invitation, which is the reason that Ms. Torres appears alone.

CHAIRMAN:McINTYRE: That will be noted on

know, they go to sick call and they get a medical, the ones that work there, and, therefore, they cannot come to work. So sometimes I got to do three people's jobs in the hospital, including the staff, the nurses, and sometimes they will be ripping and running, too. So they don't have enough time to take care of the patients. So, therefore, I help the patients.

MR. COULTER: What, exactly, is it that you do in helping the patients?

MS. TORRES: Everything. Make their beds, give them icewater, light their cigarettes, things that they can't do for themselves.

MR. COULTER: Do you administer medication?

MS. TORRES: Oh, no.

MR. COULTER: Do you ever take blood samples?

MS. TORRES: No.

MR. COULTER: Do the other residents do these jobs?

MS. TORRES: Yes. Some of them do.

MR. COULTER: Are there other kinds of work that you do in the hospital?

MS. TORRES: Sometimes when I am upstairs

taking care of the patients, they call me to sick call to go and interpret for some of the Spanish speaking ladies that cannot speak English.

MR. COULTER: Is this a job that you ordinarily always do in the hospital?

MS. TORRES: Not always, just when somebody calls and they can't speak English. Sometimes I will be in the nursery and have to leave the babies, you understand, to rip and run downstairs, when they should have somebody to speak for these people in there that cannot speak English.

MR. COULTER: That is what I mean. You are the only interpreter in the hospital?

MS. TORRES: Yes. I am the only Puerto Rican working there.

MR. COULTER: Had you had any training or education to prepare you to work as a hospital attendant?

MS. TORRES: No, sir. Everything I learned, I learned by just watching and asking questions.

MR. COULTER: Whom did you watch or ask questions of?

MS. TORRES: The nurses there. The staff. Some of the staff.

MR. COULTER: Thank you. I am going to turn it over to the Committee.

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: The Committee may direct any questions it wishes to Ms. Torres.

MS. HIGGINBOTHAM: I was wondering if the others, Puerto Ricans and those who speak Spanish, find difficulty in talking with the doctors about their illnesses or what problems they have?

MS. TORRES: Yes. They do. Because they cannot speak English. There is nobody to interpret.

When I first went there to the hospital, it was to be as an interpreter. But, no, they put me as -- first they put me to start, like to clean the hospital, you know, and to take care of the babies, which I didn't mind. I like to take care of the babies.

MS. HIGGINBOTHAM: In case of emergency, a patient coming in and you weren't on the scene, what would happen?

MS. TORRES: They would either have to call me or call some other girl from the other cottages that speaks English.

MS. HIGGINBOTHAM: But she would be serviced by the doctor? She would get service from the doctor?

Would they wait there and be there until you were found?

MS. TORRES: Yes. I mean we don't always have this kind of emergency, where someone would do this. Only the nurse and the doctor is not always there. We don't have a twenty-four hour doctor. We just have a doctor that comes in in the morning at 8:00 and leaves at 4:00, and that is it.

MR. PITTS: Ms. Torres, the year that you have worked in the hospital; have you drawn any opinion satisfactory to yourself concerning the quality of the hospital care?

MS. TORRES: You are going to have to break that down, because I don't understand big words.

MR. PITTS: I am sorry. What would you say about the care that the residents receive in the hospital? Was it good, poor, or what?

MS. TORRES: Oh. It is bad. It is very bad.

MR. PITTS: Do you receive pay for working at the hospital?

MS. TORRES: Well, since I have been there, you know, I was only getting \$10 a month, and now I hear that I am going to get a raise, after being there for a year.

It really doesn't make no difference. I want my days, you know. I do want to go home, when the time comes.

MR. PITTS: Do you receive a lot of help from the staff?

MS. TORRES: Some nurses are all right, but some of them are prejudiced, you know, against the Puerto Ricans and against the blacks and whatever, you know. I don't mean to knock anybody, you know, color or whatever. What I am saying is that we are human beings, you understand, and we like to be treated like human beings.

And some of them don't treat us like that. They treat us like we are dogs, like we are nothing.

MR. PITTS: Is that when you work for them, or is that when they are giving treatment to the patients? Or is it both?

MS. TORRES: Both. Working and both. Just both.

MR. PITTS: Have you ever brought this to the attention of any of the other officials on the campus of the institution?

MS. TORRES: How do you mean?

MR. PITTS: For instance, did you ever say to



the Associate Warden or the Warden or some other official in that capacity that you felt that this kind of prejudice hurt the care of the patients?

MS. TORRES: Well, I have never talked, really, to Ms. McLaughlin. I just see her now and then. But I have never brought it to their attention.

But I have brought it -- like when I got to the cottage and I talked to my officer and I sit down and she asks me, "Well, how was your day?", and I sit down here and tell her, and I explain how prejudiced some of them nurses are, you know, how they treat some of them girls. It is a disgrace.

MR..PITTS: Thank you.

MR. GIBBARD: Would you tell me, please, what hours you spend in the hospital per day? Yesterday, for example?

MS. TORRES: Oh, boy! Yesterday was a day. What a day!

MR. GIBBARD: Tell me about yesterday, if you will.

MS. TORRES: You are sure you want to hear about it?

I don't mean to be funny, you know, but it is

not really funny. It is a very serious thing, you know.

MR. GIBBARD: Yes.

MS. TORRES: Wednesday there was this girl -- she had an operation in her leg. So she was very upset. She was very upset about her leg. She is very upset about her grandmother dying, and you know, she is going to the Board, and again in June she is going to have another operation.

MR. GIBBARD: Is she English speaking or Spanish speaking?

MS. TORRES: No. She is a black girl. She speaks English.

But the thing is that she met the team on Wednesday. That is her case worker, her counselor and another lady, and I was there. I was present, because somebody suggested that I should be there with the girl. So I was there.

We talked. She had an incident report from one of the nurses, who is prejudiced with the black girls. She doesn't like to do nothing for nobody. She just likes to sit down and read a book, you understand. That is the way she is.

So the girl asked her for a blanket, and

she threw it at her. The girl asked her why did she throw the blanket at her. She was very upset. This was April 29th. She came to the team on Wednesday and I was there.

The case worker, she said, "Well, we are going to try to do something about this". Then the girl was upset.

I told her, "Wait a minute. Be cool and let these people talk to you. That is what they are here for. Listen to what they have to say".

She said, "Okay, Doris".

So everything was all right when I left her at 4:00. So here come yesterday, Thursday night, and she tried to hang herself. So evidently someone must have said something to the girl, to upset her.

She was all right. She was watching some late movies. She was all right then. But about 1:00 that night -- I wasn't there, but this is the story I got from one of the patients that was with the girl -- because when I came in yesterday at 8:00 in the morning, I said, "Where is my patient"?

They said, "Do you know, she tried to hang herself last night?"

I talked to her until I was blue in the face,

and she tried -- evidently somebody must have said something to her, to upset her.

And now they are keeping her on this drug that is to kill a horse, this drug they are giving her. It is to kill a horse.

She can't think for herself. She can't do for herself, and all that sort of stuff. And I think that is wrong.

Yesterday she tried to get up. They gave her a shot to knock her out. She talked to the doctor, and she begged the doctor, please to don't give her that shot. Don't give her no more of this medicine.

She got me upset. I really got real upset, you know, because I feel for these girls over there.

Anyway, she told the doctor that she -- when they came around with her medication they give to her at 11:00, and I talked to her, I said, "Let them give you this shot and you get your other pills and lay down".

She said, "No. I want to show them that I can do for myself, that I don't need that medication".

But yet she said, "Okay, Doris. I will do it for you".

She took the medication. They gave her the

shot, the knockout shot.

Then she got up and put on her clothes and went to the doctor, and the doctor, you know, she said, "Please don't give me no more of that medication. I cannot handle it. I am doped up. I can't write. I can't think. Would you please" -- she really got me upset, and I was going to go off on the doctor and ask him why must he give her this medication.

Then the nurse called me aside and said that it was only for twenty-four hours that he was going to do this, and the girl is still knocked out.

I went to check up on her this morning before I came over here, and she was knocked out. They gave her enough medication to kill a horse.

MR. COULTER: Just for the record, you don't know actually how much medication would kill a horse, do you? That is a figure of speech, isn't it?

MS. TORRES: Yes. But this here medication, I am telling you, it keeps her knocked out constantly. She is knocked out.

Well, I don't see why they got to give it to her anyway. If she doesn't want it, then they have to call one of the MCOs to come and stand.

So she told the doctor that if he come again with the needle, she was going to bend the needle, and that is exactly what she did. She got up very nicely, and we thought she was going to take the shot. Then when the nurse was going to give her the shot, she just took her hand and bended the needle.

Oh, Boy! That was some day, yesterday. I don't want to go through that again.

MR. GIBBARD: You reported at 8:00 in the morning?

MS. TORRES: Yes.

MR. GIBBARD: And you are in the hospital when?

MS. TORRES: Until 4:00.

MR. GIBBARD: Is there a meal period between 4:00 in the afternoon and 8:00 in the morning?

MS. TORRES: Is there a what?

MR. GIBBARD: Does food come in anytime between 4:00 in the afternoon and 8:00 in the morning?

MS. TORRES: Yes. The lunch -- breakfast comes around 7:30 or a quarter to eight. When it gets to the hospital, it is cold, and it is not the girl that works in the kitchen, in our kitchen in the hospital, see.

It is not her fault. The food comes from the dining room, and by the time it gets to us, it is cold.

Who wants to eat that mess that they are giving us over there? Nobody wants to eat it. Do you know, I lost, I don't know how many pounds. I weigh 114 pounds, and I was 135.

You can't eat that mess. It is cold; cold coffee, cold milk and the rest of the food is cold; and the bread, you could kill somebody with it. You could throw a piece of bread at somebody and you could knock their head off their shoulders.

MR. GIBBARD: Is there anyone who can interpret for the Spanish speaking ladies when you are not there?

MS. TORRES: Yes. They could get somebody.

MR. GIBBARD: But was there --

MS. TORRES: But I am always there. I am only off on Saturdays and Sundays.

MR. GIBBARD: You are there from 8:00 to 4:00. Can a Spanish speaking person speak with anyone before 8:00, if a person does not also speak English?

MS. TORRES: I don't understand what you are saying.

MR. GIBBARD: I am asking you --

MS. TORRES: You mean from 8:00 in the morning until 4:00?

MR. GIBBARD: No. I am talking about the time when you are not there, which would be before 8:00 or after 4:00. Do the Spanish speaking ladies, residents, have an opportunity to talk to anybody in a language that will be understood?

MS. TORRES: When I am not there, if somebody comes in with an emergency, maybe one of the girls from the cottage, one of the inmates, like if she lives in Cottage 7, and there is a girl in there that speaks English, then she goes with her to the hospital and speaks for her, you understand.

But some of the nurses, they just don't care. They won't let the girl that speaks English come into the hospital. They say "You are out of bounds. You are not supposed to be here".

MR. GIBBARD: So that nobody speaks for that person.

MS. TORRES: No. She is just going to have to tell them what she knows; like if she has a headache, she will tell them in Spanish, you know, and she points to



her head.

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: I believe Ms. Siedman has a question.

MS. SIEDMAN: You described one particular case. I am wondering if that is typical? Is it general? Do you feel that the patients get enough attention and good care, or was that an exception, where this woman wasn't getting the kind of care you thought she ought to get?

MS. TORRES: I don't think none of the ladies that go there are getting enough care or enough attention, like they are supposed to be getting.

MS. SIEDMAN: Let me ask you this, trying to be more specific --

MS. TORRES: Yes. Please do, because my English is bad.

MS. SIEDMAN: You are doing very well with your English.

MS. TORRES: I don't understand them big words.

MS. SIEDMAN: I am curious about when the patient sees the doctor. When a woman is first admitted to the hospital, who is the very first person that she sees, who takes care of her?

MS. TORRES: It depends on how you mean. Like if they come in the morning, they have to go to sick call. If the girl that --

MS. SIEDMAN: Who do they see on sick call?

MS. TORRES: First they have to see the officer sitting at the desk. She has to give the name to the officer at the desk. Then she will have to sit in a chair, like for maybe an hour or so, maybe half an hour, until the nurse calls her name.

Then she asks the nurse, "Look! I want to see the doctor".

So the nurse says, "What is wrong with you?" So the nurse writes down what is wrong with her, and then she says, about half an hour later -- who knows what time this would be -- she says, "Okay, you can go to the doctor now".

So she goes to the doctor, and she has got to sit and wait some more, to see the doctor.

MS. SIEDMAN: And that doctor is the doctor on duty from 8:00 to 4:00.

MS. TORRES: Yes.

MS. SIEDMAN: A medical doctor who is on duty?

MS. TORRES: Yes.

MS. SIEDMAN: What happens if somebody gets sick in a cottage? What is the first thing that happens when someone gets sick in the cottage?

MS. TORRES: When somebody gets sick in the cottage, if it is an emergency -- like one incident, you know, with this lady when I was in Cottage 7. She was real sick. I had worked 12:00 to 8:00, and when I came in, my officer said, "Doris, so and so is sick. Would you go see what is wrong with her?"

So I went upstairs, and this lady was really sick.

So I told the officer, "Call the hospital and tell them that we are going to bring this lady over there".

We went through this whole -- we went through changes. We had to bring that lady three times to the hospital.

MS. SIEDMAN: Why was that?

MS. TORRES: Because they kept saying there was nothing wrong with her.

MS. SIEDMAN: Who said there was nothing wrong with her? Did the doctor see her at the hospital?

MS. TORRES: First, it was about 9:00 when I brought her to the hospital. He checked her, and he said, "Well, there is really nothing wrong with you. It is only your" -- she has sugar diabetes, I think. He said, "There is nothing wrong", you know. Okay?

"So he said to the nurse, "Give her some medication and give her a douche", you know, "but test her urine".

They didn't test it. She took the lady's urine and laid it up in the bathroom. Then she didn't give her the medication that the doctor had ordered.

MS. SIEDMAN: Who is "she"? The nurse?

MS. TORRES: Yes. The nurse didn't give the lady the medication that the doctor had ordered. And they didn't give her no douche.

Okay. We take the lady back --

MS. SIEDMAN: Were you present that whole time so that you saw what happened?

MS. TORRES: Yes. I was there.

MS. SIEDMAN: No one told you about it?

MS. TORRES: No. I was there. Because I sat up with that lady for sixteen hours.

MS. SIEDMAN: What finally happened to that

lady?

MS. TORRES: After the third time, then they finally -- we had to call Mr. Bradford --

MS. SIEDMAN: Who is Mr. Bradford?

MS. TORRES: He is the new man now. I don't know what he is. He could be the assistant Warden. I don't know.

MS. SIEDMAN: Why was he called?

MS. TORRES: Why was he called?

MS. SIEDMAN: Yes.

MS. TORRES: Because we got the whole -- you know, the whole cottage got upset about this lady. They would tell us, "Take her to the cottage. She is all right. We gave her medication".

And the lady was getting sicker and sicker and sicker. I had to sit up with her sixteen hours, until finally the whole cottage got upset.

MS. SIEDMAN: What did the cottage do when they were upset?

MS. TORRES: We told the officer to call Mr. Bradford, or somebody, anybody, you understand, to take this lady out, you understand.

MS. SIEDMAN: Did the residents of the

cottage threaten to take any action because they were upset?

MS. TORRES: Well, they only said they were not going to work the next day.

MS. SIEDMAN: I see.

MS. TORRES: If they didn't take this lady out to the hospital, to see what was really wrong with her. Which finally Mr. Bradford came and he said, you know, to be cool, that he was going to take the lady out, and they kept the lady out.

MS. SIEDMAN: Where did she go?

MS. TORRES: They took her out to the hospital.

MS. SIEDMAN: Which hospital? The one at Alderson, or an outside hospital?

MS. TORRES: An outside hospital.

MS. SIEDMAN: How long was she in the outside hospital?

MS. TORRES: About a week, or something like that. I can't remember.

MS. SIEDMAN: And then what happened?

MS. TORRES: Then about a week later she came back to the cottage. She was better. But they kept

her out a week. They wanted to -- see, we don't have enough things up at the hospital to work by, you understand. We got nothing. We just work with what we have got up there.

MS. SIEDMAN: You mean you can't care for a sick patient in the hospital?

MS. TORRES: Right. That hospital over there?

MS. SIEDMAN: Yes.

MS. TORRES: No. We can't. We don't have enough of anything there. Just the doctor, and the nurses.

MR. GIBBARD: How many beds?

MS. TORRES: We got plenty of them. We got plenty of beds, and enough room. But, you know, like a girl that is having a baby, you know, they have an OR Room there, which is an operation room. But they can't deliver the babies there.

So the baby has to be born in the station wagon while they are bringing her out to the hospital, which that happened last week. We had a baby in the station wagon.

MS. SIEDMAN: You had a baby in the station wagon last year? *meel?*

the hospital, the baby was already delivered. I thought that was cute.

MR. PITTS: Does this nurse from the street -- is she a nurse at the hospital?

MS. TORRES: Yes. She is a nurse, but she, you know, is an inmate. She has five numbers, just like me. But she can do like the other nurses do. She works in the lab now.

MR. PITTS: But she is not a nurse. She doesn't work as a nurse at the hospital on campus.

MS. TORRES: Wait. Let me explain this to you, because I don't understand what you say. Maybe you will understand what I am saying.

See, she is a nurse from the free world. She has got her license and everything, you understand? But she is an inmate, and she works at the hospital. Now she works at the lab. You understand what I am saying, now?

MR. PITTS: I understand.

MS. TORRES: But she is like one of the staff.

MR. PITTS: I just wanted to know whether or not she was a nurse in the hospital at the institution?



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MR. PITTS: I understand.

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MR. PITTS: I just wanted to know whether or not she was a nurse in the hospital at the institution?

called meritorious pay?

MS. TORRES: I think that is what they call it. I just don't call it anything.

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: Did you receive any pay while you were working at the cafeteria or at the restaurant?

MS. TORRES: To tell you the truth, I worked there a whole year, and come to find out, after I worked there, that they wasn't paying me anything. Well, you know, I was in this NARA Program, for drug addicts. And I guess the staff suggested that they shouldn't pay me anything.

Finally, when I talked to my case worker, when I went and got my time and talked to my case worker, do you know what she got me for a whole year? This is not funny. But they gave me \$80 to work, you know, in the dining room, for a whole year. \$80! And you know what I told them what to do with the \$80. Right? I told them.

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: Is the pay you were receiving about equal to the pay other residents working at the hospital received?

MS. TORRES: How do you mean that?

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: You say you got \$10 per

month.

MS. TORRES: Yes.

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: Do the other inmates or residents working in the hospital get about that same amount each month?

MS. TORRES: Yes. Probably so. If not, they are probably getting \$5 a month. But I really don't know about anybody else's pay. I know about my pay. And it is a disgrace that a girl has to work, you know, a whole month before she gets anything, you know, before she gets any pay.

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: Is that true at the hospital?

MS. TORRES: Is that what?

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: Is that true at the hospital, where you work? Did you have to work there three months before making any?

MS. TORRES: I worked the dining room three months and they wasn't paying me anything. So I can imagine how it is in the hospital.

This girl is working there thirty days, and she asked could she please get some kind of money.

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: But I asked you awhile

ago how you got to your position, working in the hospital. I wanted to ask you also, so I will ask now, did you have any previous training, acting as a nurse, or did you have any hospital experience before you worked at the hospital at Alderson?

MS. TORRES: No, sir. I have never worked in a hospital. I just worked in the institution.

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: Were you ever given any classes, or were you ever trained or taught by any of the hospital personnel?

MS. TORRES: At the institution, you mean?

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: At Alderson.

MS. TORRES: Let me tell you: I tried to get into the nursing class. So like I said, some of the staff is prejudiced, and they only had four black girls, and all the other ones were white at the place, and this, you know, the staff member, the head nurse, she picked up the girls. She picked out the girls. And I kept telling my case worker, "Look, I want to go into nursing, even though it might not help me in the street", because I am a drug addict, or I was a drug addict.

But anyway, I feel that I would have some kind of diploma when I got out on the street. I could help

somebody in need, who was sick.

So I begged them, "Please put me down for these classes".

Well, they didn't put me down. So what I know, you know, I just learned by asking some of the nice nurses there, who are real nice, who are willing to teach me, you know, how to take the pulse and the respiration and all that other stuff.

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: You say you were in the NARA Program?

MS. TORRES: Yes.

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: Are you still in that program?

MS. TORRES: Oh, no.

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: How long did you remain in that program?

MS. TORRES: For about eight or nine months. They sent me there, you know, from Puerto Rico. That is where my charge was. I was there for ninety days observation, and wind up staying there about eight or nine months.

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: NARA, I think are letters meaning Narcotics Addicts Rehabilitation Act.

MS. TORRES: Yes.

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: That is a program being given to you at Alderson?

MS. TORRES: Yes.

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: While you were at Alderson, were you under the NARA Program for awhile?

MS. TORRES: Yes.

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: We will get into it later on, but since you are here and went through the program, was that a successful program? Did you find it valuable and worthwhile to you?

MS. TORRES: Well, it didn't help me any. I can't tell you too much about the program, because I never, you know, in grouping and all of that, that is not my thing, grouping, you know, trying to find out other people's business. So I never grouped.

So they used to say, "They are going to give you ten years for this". When I met them, they said "They are going to give you ten years for this".

They wrote the Judge and told him to give me ten years. When I went to get that time, I told the Judge I felt that program couldn't do nothing for me.

He said, "I am giving you four years in the

institution".

Well, four years sounds better than ten.

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: Is there a doctor on duty at the hospital now from the hours of 8:00 to 4:00, while you are working?

MS. TORRES: Yes.

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: Now?

MS. TORRES: Yes. He is there now. He is supposed to come here at 3:00.

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: I mean each day, is there a doctor there during the daytime hours?

MS. TORRES: Yes. He is a good doctor. He is a very good man. He really is. I mean I give the man credit. He tries to see all the girls he can see. But we need more doctors, like for female trouble, you know. He don't know too much about that, you know. He could give you medicine.

We need doctors there like for the bones, or something like that.

But this man we got now, he is good. He tries. He really does. He is a very good doctor. And he tries to help us.

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: What is his name?

MS. TORRES: Dr. Lawson. He is a good man. I like him. He is a little prejudice, but he is all right.

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: Any other committee members or staff that have any questions for Ms. Torres?

[No response]

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: You have been very open, frank, and helpful to us, Ms. Torres. Thank you very much for participating with us.

MS. TORRES: I wish you guys would do something for us.

[Witness excused]

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: The next panel we have scheduled this morning will deal with our investigation of the areas of Work, Education and Recreation at Alderson, and the following persons will be participating on this panel: Carolyn Mae Hammond, Gloria Ferrand, Jeanne Jantzen, and Gumersinda Luna.

We were originally scheduled to have with us Geraldine Washington, but I am advised that she is on furlough from the institution at this time.

WORK, EDUCATION, RECREATION:

MR. COULTER: I see that we only have three of the scheduled five.



Would each of you please state your full name for the record?

MS. HAMMOND: Carolyn Hammond.

MS. FERRAND: Gloria Jean Ferrand.

MS. JANTZEN: Jeanne Jantzen.

MR. COULTER: What I would like to do is direct a few questions to each of you, and then take a back seat and let the members of the Committee or the staff members put some questions to you. Of course if there is something particularly that you wish to bring up, you may.

I would like to start with Ms. Hammond. Could you describe what the resident council is, and how it is formed, and what it does?

MS. HAMMOND: Yes, sir. I would be happy to. There are, I don't know, I think about seventeen cottages on the Reservation. The members of those cottages elect, through a democratic process, two members of their cottage to represent their interests in the resident council.

It is the responsibility of those two members to interpret what business might come before them, as their cottage members would see fit.

Out of that resident council, there is yet another smaller council, which we call the executive committee, and it is made up of the chairperson of the council, the vice-chairperson, the secretary, and a couple of other members who serve as the executive committee.

They work up the agenda, and often times initially see the material that will be presented later at the council meetings.

MR. COULTER: Are you, yourself, involved with the resident council?

MS. HAMMOND: Yes, sir. I am a member of the council. I represent the NARA Community, very broadly. As well as that, I am a member of the executive committee of the resident council.

MR. COULTER: Perhaps the members of the Committee will want to come back to that.

My next question for you is, what academic or education courses have you taken while at the Reformatory?

MS. HAMMOND: Well, damn near all I have had, I have taken there. I had some elementary schooling at home before I came to the institution, and since being at the institution I have received my GED. I was in the

advanced studies lab, and beyond that I am now in the college level program.

MR. COULTER: Can you describe in just a little more detail what particular courses these are?

MS. HAMMOND: Initially, when you come in, you are tested to find out how far your education has gone at home. From that, some basis is made up as to what, you know, an evaluation is made up as to what you might need additionally.

In my case, I wasn't smart enough to get a GED, so I went into the regular preparatory classes for the GED.

When I finished that, I felt I had some potential, and I think more than that, I think the instructor felt I had some potential, and even went through the advanced studies lab.

When I completed that I went into the college education program.

I have been in the college level classes about a year, and completed twelve semester hours.

MR. COULTER: Ms. Ferrand, what was your work assignment when you came to the Reformatory at Alderson?

MS. FERRAND: Well, it is customary that every

woman that comes into the institution, if she passes the health status, goes into the dining room for thirty days.

This is what I did. I went into the dining room for thirty days. I was in a section of the dining room which is called Vegetable Prep. You have what you call a certain amount of hours in the morning, and you go back and come back.

I don't like to work like that. I want to work a certain amount of hours and finish. I asked the woman over the kitchen would she put me in something that was different hours. This is what she did.

When I completed my thirty days, I went to another assignment, which was the garment factory.

MR. COULTER: Is that where you are working now?

MS. FERRAND: Yes.. It is.

MR. COULTER: Could you describe what the garment factory is, briefly?

MS. FERRAND: Yes. I could. The garment factory consists of three departments. One makes pajamas, one makes tops for the pajamas -- it is broken down. One makes the pants, one makes the tops, and then you have one complete department that makes shirts.

In the last, say, three weeks, the shirts have gone to the other department, which it was never that way since I have been there. I have been in the garment factory since February of this year. This was the first time, I have been told, that the shirts have ever went on the other side.

It is set up on a piecework basis. One woman sews the collars, one woman sets the pockets, one woman sets the sleeves, another sets the cuffs. It is all set up on a piecework basis.

You are given a piece of paper that is supposed to be your quota for the day. You put on there what you do. This is where they find out what production you put out.

They have what they call a grade level. They have four grades. When you come into the garment factory, everyone has to come in as a 4th Grader, regardless of whether or not -- how much she can sew.

You have some women that come into the garment factory who are sewers, who have sewn before, and I feel if you can set a collar on a shirt, you are not a 4th Grade worker. You are a 1st Grade worker.

But no matter how well you sew, you have to

start off as a 4th Grader.

MR. COULTER: What difference does your grade make?

MS. FERRAND: The grade is the money. This is where the money comes in.

MR. COULTER: Can you break that down?

MS. FERRAND: Yes. I can. As a 4th Grader, you come in, you make .2921¢ an hour.

As a 3rd Grader you make .4381¢.

As a 2nd Grader you make .5842¢.

As a 1st Grader you make .7302¢ an hour.

MR. COULTER: I am afraid I don't really understand your figures. What does the .5842¢ mean?

MS. FERRAND: I would like for somebody to tell me. I have really been trying to find out, what it really meant.

I have assumed that the 42 is the fraction of a dollar. But in order for you to benefit from that fraction of the dollar, your hours have to be up to par. You can't afford to have any type of missing hours. You literally can't go to the bathroom, in order to benefit from that percentage of the dollar.

MR. COULTER: Can you give me a rough idea

of what the pay is per hour for the 4th Grade?

MS. FERRAND: Yes. That is .2921¢ an hour.

MR. COULTER: What does .2921¢ mean?

MS. FERRAND: Please tell me. I have been trying to find out.

MR. GIBBARD: What would a person receiving .2921¢ an hour receive in a month?

MS. FERRAND: Approximately, if they do not go to school, mind you -- if you go to school, then it is different. That is a horse of another color. You have to stay in there all day.

You are very lucky if you make \$40. This means that you don't go to no sick calls. You don't leave the garment factory for anything that day, for that whole period of that month.

They have what they call a sick day. In order to get this sick day, you cannot be late any day of the month. You cannot have any absentees whatsoever during the month.

But you do not get paid for a sick day.

MR. COULTER: If I am correct, are you telling me that you make less than 1¢ an hour for working in the garment factory?

MS. FERRAND: No. I really don't -- it is 29.21¢, it should be. This is the way I see it. But the way they have it written up, the "." is in front of the 29, and the 21 is behind the 29.

I know decimals a little. I am not an expert of a decimal. But they have been teaching me quite well there with the decimals. When I see decimals, I have to see 29., in between that 21, in order to break it down as a fraction.

MR. COULTER: Where did you get that information?

MS. FERRAND: I got this out of the garment factory. It is posted on the wall.

MR. COULTER: Have you ever asked anyone to explain it to you?

MS. FERRAND: Yes. And I have always gotten, you know, one of those evasive answers, or no answer at all.

MR. GIBBARD: So girls working full days for a month would work 150 to 200 hours a month, and would receive how much?

MS. FERRAND: If you are a 4th Grader?



MR. GIBBARD: Yes.

MS. FERRAND: If you are a 4th Grader, you are lucky if you come out with \$40. This is what I am saying. You are lucky if you have \$40.

MR. GIBBARD: Your figure is 29.21¢ per hour, I think. I think that is the way it works out.

MR. COULTER: How many people work in the garment factory, roughly?

MS. FERRAND: As of this date, there are 145 women on the pay roll.

MR. COULTER: Is there a set number in each pay grade?

MS. FERRAND: Yes. I was told that they are only allowed 21, at this time -- I don't know how many they are allowed. I take that back. At this time there are 21 1st Graders.

There are 32 2nd Graders.

There are 33 3rd Graders.

There are 56 4th Graders.

MR. COULTER: Those numbers, or people in those grades, don't change, do they?

MS. FERRAND: That is a horse of another color.. In order for anyone in that garment factory to get

a grade, someone has to go home that is holding a grade. If no one goes home for that month, that is holding a grade; no one gets a grade.

MR. COULTER: In other words, there are a certain number of slots in each grade?

MS. FERRAND: Right.

MR. COULTER: And you move up as somebody moves out.

MS. FERRAND: Right. If no one moves out, no one moves up.

But yet I have one other thing I might add. I have always been told, in order to have a production quota, you have to have a number in order to go over. But I found out at that garment factory, as of now, has no production quota. So how can you tell me when it is up or down, if there is no number?

MR. COULTER: Do you get paid, or do people working in the factory get paid, extra money if extra work is done, or if production goes over some amount?

MS. FERRAND: This is the way it is supposed to be set up. You get a percentage of what the production is up to.

But it comes right back to what is your

production quota, in order to be up over? How can you tell me that production is up if you can't tell me first what production starts at?

MR. COULTER: So you don't know what production it is that you are trying to exceed.

MS. FERRAND: Right.

MR. COULTER: Is some additional money paid out, though, for supposedly going over, as well as you can tell, exceeding a certain amount of production?

MS. FERRAND: I haven't seen it yet.

MR. COULTER: That has not been done since you have been working there?

MS. FERRAND: I haven't seen it yet. It was rumored we were supposed to get a raise. In order to get a raise -- the prices I have is posted on the wall. So when you get a raise, the price list should have changed, and the last thing I looked at when I went out of the factory today was that price list, and it has not changed.

MR. COULTER: I am sure we will want to come back to this. But let me direct a few questions now to Ms. Jantzen.

Let me ask you, to your knowledge, Ms. Jantzen, are all inmates who arrive at the Reformatory,

aside from perhaps a medical emergency or something, required to work at a regular job?

MS. JANTZEN: All inmates, after going through their thirty day CDR duty, which is central dining room duty, which is an enforcement, are required to work.

MR. COULTER: What would happen, as you understand it, if somebody chose not to work?

MS. JANTZEN: Without a medical, someone who refused to work, I believe, would be locked, and as things stand presently, now, would be locked in Davis Hall

MR. COULTER: So your understanding is, that would be a violation of the rules, not to work?

MS. JANTZEN: Yes.

From what I have been able to ascertain in the time I have been there, work is not voluntary. Work is mandatory. Work of some type.

MR. COULTER: There has been some reference to the fact that sometimes inmates don't get paid. What is the situation, as you understand it? Are inmates paid when they work, always?

MS. JANTZEN: Let me relate my own personal experience in that. When one comes into the institution,

one goes through orientation.

Orientation, depending upon how many women have come through at that time, can occur immediately, or a week later, or two weeks later.

After orientation, during which time you get your "physical", and one is declared mentally and physically sound, then one proceeds to enter the dining room, to go through their thirty day central dining room duty.

However, through the grapevine, one learns that while they are in the dining room, they had better go out and scout themselves up another job, because if you complete your thirty days in the dining room and do not have, not just a job lined up, but a change slip, which I will come back to, already through, you will continue to work in the dining room at no salary. One is not paid anything during the thirty day CDR Duty.

One must go through what is referred to in the institution as "Team". The team is composed of your case worker, counselor, and educational representative, in order to comply with a job change.

Many of the women who do not know where they want to work, what is available, what their own

potential is, go to the team to find out what can be offered in the way of a job.

Until Team and the woman sit down and rap about this -- as I said before, they remain in the kitchen. I have known women to remain in the dining room two months, three months, who do not really want to remain in the dining room, but just had not found a job to their liking and the change slip to go through.

When one starts their new job, one is on, shall we say, a thirty day probationary period, with their supervisor.

The supervisor cannot put in a recommendation for pay and/or good days, which I will come back to, until you have completed thirty days with that supervisor in that job.

By this time, possibly a minimum of sixty days, more than likely ninety days, have gone by without earning a dime; anything.

After this recommendation by your supervisor goes through Team, which can take another week or two weeks, and then it goes through the procedure of being sent up, you know, going on to the pay roll and so forth, this can take another thirty days.

In other words, depending on how quickly the system works, how close the woman is to her case worker, to her team, to her supervisor, she can remain on this institution grounds for up to six months.

When I say six months, I am speaking on my own behalf, because I trusted, to my initial supervisor, whom I no longer work for, to take care of his job, which was to put in for my recommendation for pay and good days.

In my case, I was primarily concerned with my good days. However, he overlooked it. He forgot it. He was too busy. He did not do his job.

Although I went to work for him immediately after going through CDR Duty, my recommendation for pay and good days did not go through until March, and I arrived on the Reservation on September 16, 1973.

My pay in good days became effective March, 1974. During that period of time, I had not earned a dime.

MR. COULTER: I want to drop back away from the subject of work and go back to something we discussed earlier in the morning, concerning rules and regulations at the institution as it relates to discipline.

Di you receive, Ms. Jantzen, a written handbook of any sort that contains the rules and regulations

for the Reformatory?

MS. JANTZEN: Yes. When I first came to the Reservation, orientation was conducted in Cottage 26, and the first night that I arrived, I was given a book containing policy statements.

MR. COULTER: This was the compilation of green sheets?

MS. JANTZEN: Yes.

MR. COULTER: Have you, since then, received notice of changes in those statements?

MS. JANTZEN: Yes. When policy statement changes, the green sheets, came to the cottage for each individual woman, and when we did have a very basic change in furlough policy, both Mr. Bradford and Mr. Markley came to our cottage to discuss some of this with us, as well as -- I don't know his name. But one of the people, I believe, associated with NARA just happened to come to our cottage to discuss at length the new policy.

MR. COULTER: In your judgment, are these regulations and these policy statements sufficiently specific and clear, that the inmates can get the guidance and the need from them? Perhaps that is not a fair question.



MS. JANTZEN: I was just going to say, Mr. Coulter, you are asking me to make a judgment of what 525 individual women are able to interpret, and you have women that come into the institution who take an SAT Test, who come out with a 2.8 score, all the way up to women with superior mental ability. And to say that every one of them can interpret the policy statement, is to say that everone in the room will interpret my remarks in the same way, and you know, we all know, that is not so.

I don't think that is possible. Nor do I think that the institution could base their written policy statement, geared to a 2.8 level. I think that would be asking, you know, something that is impossible.

MR. COULTER: I just have one more question that I could direct to all of you, maybe, if you have some remarks on it.

Are there any individuals in the institution that might be called "Jailhouse Lawyers"; that is, inmates or residents who regularly assist other residents in preparing legal papers or something of this sort? If not, why would you say not?

MS. FERRAND: I would say I haven't come in contact with any, what you call "Jailhouse Lawyers".

You begin to realize that you have to depend on each other. You go to each other for advice. But there are no legal books there that are going to really help you, because the legal books they have there are so outdated, with pages missing, it would be highly impossible for anybody to help anybody do anything.

MS. HAMMOND: At this time, and for many years, because I have been at Alderson on and off for many years, there haven't been any "Jailhouse Lawyers".

I think that in the recent past that may not have been necessary. I know that the attorneys from Washington and Lee Law School come to the institution on a regular basis, and to my knowledge, all the women who have legal problems see them.

MR. COULTER: Do you want to say a few more words to describe that program, Ms. Jantzen?

MS. JANTZEN: Katie brought up the one point that I feel is essential; that there are law students coming to the institution. The only personal feelings I have about that are maybe that they are not publicized enough. Maybe we should start more of an active campaign to let the women know that these attorneys, or students, do come to the institution.

I do have a personal gripe about the fact that there is not a complete up to date law library readily accessible to the women.

However, I think that a comment is in order here dealing with a women's institution. As a woman, it grieves me to say this, but women tend, for whatever reasons in this environment, to do their time in not as constructive a manner as I have heard through the grapevine that men do their time.

Men, from what I gather, would demand an accessible up to date law library, while women tend, either through nature or passification, which is something that I hope we come back to later, while I am still here, to do their time dealing with petty issues, pettiness among themselves, instead of trying to find legal ways to reduce their time, get themselves out of the institution, per se.

MR. COULTER: Thank you. I am sure there are many questions that the members of the Committee would like to ask.

MR. GIBBARD: Ms. Hammond, I would like to get some understanding beyond what I now have on the nature of the resident council; why does it exist, what does it do, and who sets the agendas, and so on?

MS. HAMMOND: I would like to preface that with just a little bit of information. I originally came to the institution in November of 1963. I have been a resident there for the past eleven years, with something less than three years home, due to my own inability to adjust to the community. Okay?

In that time, eight or nine years, I have seen some really constructive and positive changes take place within the institution. I can remember a time when women wore uniforms, not actually uniforms, but dresses made all the same way, with different kinds of fabrics.

I can remember when you weren't allowed anything from home, whatsoever.

I can remember when you wore Army issue shoes, and Army issue raincoates.

I can remember when you could not buy any make-up at the commissary.

I can remember when it was very, very difficult to try to do anything about how you looked.

I happened to be one of the original members of the council which was formed, and this may be wrong, but I think it was about in 1965, when it came into being.

At that time I am not sure what the reasoning or what the rationale was for the organization of the council, but we felt it was super, because it gave us an opportunity to have some input into what was happening with the system.

Since that time, I think the council has been very successful. I think that we have worked on a negotiated kind of contract basis. I think that oftentimes policies have been brought to us for discussion, and for a feeling, what do we feel about it.

That isn't always true, but I think the council has had a great deal of input.

On the other hand, I think that we have served on the -- the thing the Warden says always comes to my mind: "Where there is privilege, there is responsibility".

I think the council itself has taken on a lot of responsibilities, and those haven't always been so easy.

MR. GIBBARD: How is the membership determined on the council? How did you get on it?

MS. HAMMOND: The members in my cottage, democratically, through a secret ballot, voted me in.

MR. GIBBARD: For how long a term?

MS. HAMMOND: For one year.

I have just recently been re-voted in for a second year.

MR. GIBBARD: How different is it this year from last year on membership? Are most of the people this year re-elected?

MS. HAMMOND: It is hard to say. It depends. There isn't a great deal of overlap, always, and then sometimes it is.

I choose to believe it is a compliment as to my effectiveness and that sort of thing.

MR. GIBBARD: If you think of the last four or five or six things that resident council considered, how many of them originated within the council?

MS. HAMMOND: Nearly all of them.

We are used at times for like a sounding board, like policies, the green sheets that Jeanne was talking about will be -- when the furlough policy initially came out, there was a great deal of discussion about the furlough policy. I think that went to the council at some point along in there, and we talked about it. Then out of that it went through to the cottages.

But an executive council meeting is held often, and women relate their needs, the comments, whatever it is they have to say to their council members, and that is brought into the executive council.

We discuss so and so thinks it is such and such. From that, we make up an agenda. Then it goes to the full council, and we invite staff to answer our questions, make decisions, whatever.

MR. GIBBARD: What do you do with your decisions?

MS. HAMMOND: What do we do with them?

MR. GIBBARD: To whom do you communicate them?

MS. HAMMOND: It depends. If it is about the commissary, then we communicate them to the people who are responsible for purchasing, or the commissary.

If it is about the furlough policy, we communicate it to the administrative heads.

MR. GIBBARD: I would like to ask you next about some of your own educational experiences. When did you earn the GED?

MS. HAMMOND: In 1964.

MR. GIBBARD: This gets us back sometime, so

perhaps I shouldn't dwell on it. Did you feel at that time that you were getting helpful instruction, to prepare you for the examinations?

MS. HAMMOND: Yes. I thought I was getting helpful instruction.

At the time I didn't realize how important it was. There was some pressure put upon me to do it, to take my GED. Not pressure in the sense that someone was telling me I had to do it, but there was some pressure.

At the time I didn't see it as important, as of course I do now.

Can I make just kind of a statement here, which is what I really want to say anyway?

MR. GIBBARD: Yes.

MS. HAMMOND: I think there are two things from my experience at Alderson. I think there are two things that have been consistent problems. Okay? And they tie in, I think, with the education and the recreation, in nearly every aspect of the operation of the institution. I feel these two problems are the locale of the institution, and the money allocated by Congress, or whoever, to operate the institute.

As to my first things, the locale, I



think that it is because of where we are. It is very difficult to -- at this point we do not have a work release program. We don't have a work release program, because of where we are, and because of the community surrounding it, and because of the job opportunities.

I suggest that if we were in a metropolitan area, that perhaps this program, which has been approved by the Bureau, might come into being.

The school release program: At this point we don't have a school release program, because we have the same kind of problem.

I believe the institution is willing. I believe the institution would be happy to institute a program like that. But I just don't think that the opportunities are available there.

I think that this has to do with somewhat the quality and quantity of staff. I believe because of the locale, that it is difficult to attract people to the institution who have the educational qualifications to carry out some of the programs that would otherwise be in action.

Recreation: I believe that that guy does a fantastic job on the recreation down there. But I think he is hampered because of being so far back in the country.

I hope I have supported that well enough.

The other thing I feel is because of the money that is given to the institution. I feel that, at least it has been my experience, that if enough demand were made for a specific kind of program, that the institution ordinarily makes an effort to put that kind of thing into being.

But when you don't have the money, you don't have the money.

I believe, to a great part, that is some thing I hear all the time. "We just don't have the money".

MR. GIBBARD: I wanted to stay with education for just a bit. You have twelve semester hours of college, double credit?

MS. HAMMOND: Yes.

MR. GIBBARD: How was that opportunity provided you?

MS. HAMMOND: Mr. Jones, who is the coordinator of the advance studies, managed somehow, I don't know how, to bring in the West Virginia University, Greenbrier Valley Extension Center. They give one class at a time, and the last couple of them have been -- instead

of a sixteen week long class, they are like eight weeks long. It took me a year to get twelve credits.

MR. GIBBARD: And these are faculty from Greenbrier Extension Center?

MS. HAMMOND: Right. I would like to see more of that happen.

MR. GIBBARD: What number of the residents are enrolled in the classes?

MS. HAMMOND: Something like fifteen or twenty. Toward the end of the semester, it gets smaller.

MR. GIBBARD: Can you make an estimate of what fraction of the residents would qualify by having GED or high school?

MS. HAMMOND: No, sir. I do not. I am aware that we are in the minority. People who are interested, you know, are kind of in the minority. But I couldn't make an estimate of the fraction.

MR. GIBBARD: Is there any somewhat formal teaching which is done by inmates for other inmates?

MS. HAMMOND: I think that the women assist as teachers' aids in nearly all of the classes.

MR. GIBBARD: Do they do some instruction? Do they engage in instruction activities?

MS. HAMMOND: Yes, sir. I believe they do.

MR. GIBBARD: Did you want to say something,  
Ms .Jantzen?

MS. JANTZEN: No. I would prefer that  
Katie finish.

MS. HAMMOND: I am finished.

MR. GIBBARD: I would like, since you have  
been talking about nonpay and pay, when you are without  
pay, what do you do? What do you begin to use money for  
when you get money? How different is life when you are  
getting \$10 a month and when you are getting nothing? Does  
it really make a difference?

MS. FERRAND: Not with the prices in the  
commissary, it does not make a difference.

MR. GIBBARD: You are sensitive to pay. I am  
fully sympathetic. What I am trying to find out is, when  
you move from nonpay to pay, from the lowest level of pay  
to a higher rate of pay, how does it change your life  
style at all?

MS. FERRAND: Which one are you directing  
the question to?

MR. GIBBARD: At you.

MS. FERRAND: A lot of women on the

Reservation have children. You will find a lot of women will try to get into the garment factory, because we have been told in the garment factory you can make a hundred some odd dollars a month. But they don't know the full gravity of that grade business until they are in there and find out how many months you might be in there before you make that first grade.

Some women stay in there until the time they get home. When it is heard by the grapevine they are ready to go home, they get the grade.

When they are making the money, they can send home money to their families, to help with the support of the children, plus have a little left over to spend at the commissary.

But when you get right to it, it is not enough to even really buy your commissary. So there is nothing left for home.

So now a woman working on a \$10 a month job, you know she can't send anything to anybody.

MR. GIBBARD: What specifically does one do until you get your \$10 a month?

MS. FERRAND: You do without any type of -- so far as cookies or candy or little nicknacks, something

to snack on. If no one gives it to you, you do without. A person like me, I don't ask, so I do without, or I eat what I eat in the dining room. When I didn't like what they served in the dining room, I didn't eat at all.

There used to be a time, when I first came there, they gave you a small box of washing powder a month, toothpaste, toothpowder, and so forth. You are still given the soap and the tooth powder, but the washing powder soap is disappeared. It is very hard. I guess it is lye in it, because I put some in my clothes once and I broke out all over, because I neglected to rinse the clothes three or four times, not knowing. But I paid for the experience.

MR. GIBBARD: Ms. Jantzen, you wanted to say something about the teacher's aid and the educational program. I now invite you to do it.

MS. JANTZEN: Mr. Gibbard, it is not just a matter of starting to discuss the education. What I would really like to do is probably say many of the things that I have within me to say, and then let the panel continue to ask any questions that remain, if you feel this is the right time for that, or if you would prefer to --

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: Surely. I think you have

a right to say anything you desire to say now.

MS. JANTZEN: For me just to begin on education, one thing ties in so much with the other, that maybe I can make a few other comments, and then you can ask individual questions, or stop me along the way.

First of all, as Katie started to elaborate on, the basis of the problem in Alderson's institution is that Alderson exists in Alderson, West Virginia. The largest federal institution for women in the United States of America, housing 525 women, exists in a geographically isolated situation, insofar as its inmates are concerned, to a great degree, and it exists in an economically deprived area.

Alderson, I understand from literature that I have read in the institution, was first set up in Alderson because it seemed at that time most of the federal offenders of feminine sorts were women who had engaged in making moonshine, illegal liquor.

I think we now have to deal with the fact that this is now '74. The majority of the women that are coming to Alderson are not coming there because they are making moonshine. They come from cities, large cities like Washington, D. C., New York, Chicago; They are shipped

here from Texas, from the west coast, from Utah. They are isolated geographically; many of them coming from economically deprived families, and this is in part due to the fact that society did not give them many opportunities to be educated to a great extent, such as I was fortunate enough to be educated.

My reasons for being at Alderson are my own. I was not deprived as a child.

The majority of the women in the institution are minority groups. I am sure most of you in this room have read enough surveys to understand there has to be a reason that most of the women in prison are minority groups.

We now bring these minority group women from the cities, from the ghettos, to an isolated area.

I know of one case where a young woman came from someplace like Utah. She had a zip 6. She is only twenty years old. She had an eighteen month old baby. Her sister committed a crime in order to raise the money to bring that child to see her. That woman got eighteen months from the board. In order for her to see her child again, her family will probably commit another crime.

To me, obviously we have to stop talking



about eventually phasing Alderson out, and do something about taking the majority of these women back to their communities, particularly the very young women that we now have at Alderson.

I understand that we try and transfer many to Morgantown. Lexington has just opened up. We try to send many to Lexington. We try to send many to Fort Worth, where there are opportunities for work release and scholastic release. But we must deal with the fact that we still have 525 women at Alderson.

Alderson is existing today supposedly as a rehabilitation center. How can you rehabilitate when you cannot offer work release?

You cannot offer work release because this area, in fact, depends on the existence of Alderson for its own economic purposes. Most of the staff, as far as the officers, working at Alderson -- if Alderson was not existing, they would not have a place to work.

However, I say to you, in my home, New York, we have ghettos. No one is building an institution there to supply the work in that area.

I think we have to stop thinking in terms of Alderson and start thinking in terms now, not masterplanning

any more, not talking about it, but doing something about getting as many of these women back into a community location.

Granted, I am very, very aware, as our Warden has said on television, in ABC's documentary, "Women in Prison"; that the majority of the women that come into Alderson could not afford themselves a more extensive educational program which they were offered, because they do not have a basic education when they come in. I understand that.

But what hope, what purpose of "rehabilitating", which we all know is really a nonexisting form -- it is just a word that is used -- is there if you bring them here and just isolate them? You are isolating them again from their family, and from their community.

The majority of the women need something in the way of educational help.

Going back to the garment factory, entering the garment factory because, again, there is the economic need for them to support themselves as far as the commissary. And I am not talking about just cookies and candies, which anybody can do without, but soap, shampoo, Tide to wash your clothes, a pair of nylons.

I mean any woman in the room who has not been incarcerated does not know the feeling, not to have a bar of soap, and I am not talking about harsh soap that will take your skin off with it, not just the dirt, but the ability to be able to buy a regular bar of soap, a bottle of shampoo, the very basic essentials.

To put this woman in a position where she must go into the garment factory in order to support herself and to possibly send some money home is negating the whole purpose of so-called rehabilitation.

The garment center has just recently clamped down very, very tightly on women entering the classroom during the day; the classroom, as it is set up now.

In the vocational building we have a right to read class, a right to read program, which is a good program.

Individually, at night, I have worked with a few of the women. Expose some of these women to the opportunity, and their eyes light up like children. You know, "I can do it' I have elevated myself to another grade!".

But you take the average women who has not been exposed to reading, etc., at home, as a child, in her

adolescence, in young womanhood, she works all day in the garment factory. Aside from the fact there is a quota, at night and she must wait, she is tired, and she wants to recreate a little.

Again, I keep repeating myself, she has not been geared throughout her life to thinking in terms of education.

Isn't that what the institution is supposed to be trying to show her, that there is another way?

But if we do not put the emphasis on education, which it is not emphasized -- you know, so much is heard through the grapevine.

There is a woman there that had been on the grounds something like seven or eight months. She was not even aware that there was a right to read program until she happened to meet me and rap with me, and I took her in and she enrolled, and she is doing beautifully now. But that should have come through Team, and it didn't come through Team.

Again reverting back to isolationism: The visitor situation is poor, because of the area.

Again we cannot ignore the fact that the average woman there is economically deprived, and it may be

very, very difficult for her family, her man, whatever, to visit.

All of her connections, her home ties that make her still realize that first she is a woman, and partially the same woman that she was when she came in here -- and you know, I don't know whether any of the girls have mentioned it yet this morning, but this expression that they use, "Bulldogging"; if a woman has tendencies and a bona fide homosexual relationship, then to me any type of love is beautiful.

If that is what you are, that is where you have come from, then you have as much right to that type of love as any other type of love.

But, hey, if because you have been isolated for a year, eighteen months, two years, from any association with the outside world -- and a woman's nature is to love, to give -- and her friendship starts turning into another type of relationship, and quite often this woman does not know how to deal with it, because her emotions become involved, because again a woman is a very emotional creature, it is not really a bona fide relationship that she can deal with.

The psychological and the emotional

repercussions are grave. She leaves the institution a far more mixed up woman than she would have left any type of institution, halfway house, that was closer to her community, where she still knew that, you know, the family ties were still there, the family existence is still there.

If a woman makes another choice, to love another woman, on her own, then again I repeat, you know, that is her business. She is entitled to that.

But I feel this is isolationism, and this non-relation world at Alderson is not what we should be striving for in 1974.

I believe it has been proven in Iowa that the average woman offender, who is not extremely violent, if she is given an opportunity for work release and/or study release, and an opportunity to spend time with her child, will be more of an asset to herself, her family, and her community.

The average woman here does not ever have the opportunity to show that she can be a better asset to herself, her child, her community.

And touching on that, just think what it does to her children; the lack of contact.

I know those of you who are right wing conservatives can sit her and say, "Hey, but she broke the law.. She did something to put herself in this position".

Yes. She did. And in my own case, I am saying, "Hey, that is what I did, and I deserved the punishment".

But I am saying that in the majority of the cases, you have minority group women who society never gave a fair deal to, to begin with, from birth, because they were born into a prison environment, which basic sociology teaches you; the prison, the role, the whole thing.

Now I feel to again isolate them is defeating the whole purpose. We are not playing around with that woman's life. We are dealing with the next generation, her children, who are still back in the city, still back in the ghetto.

I feel until we can bring her back to her family, we are bringing up another prison generation, just like we are bring up another welfare generation if we do not beging to equally educate women.

Again, reverting to education, I understand that at one time before I was at Alderson they did send women out on buses to some of the neighboring colleges,

which this area does have universities at their disposal. I do not know why it was stopped, except that maybe, you know, a small percentage of the women were able to take care of it or deal with it.

However, I have been told that in the last masterplanning at the beginning of this year at Alderson, they are again thinking about returning to this.

I feel, if you have one woman in the institution that you could bus out and give this college opportunity to, isn't the one woman worth the money and the trouble that you are going to spend?

I realize I sound like I am on a soapbox. But there is so much to say.

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: That is quite all right. We appreciate your statement.

We do have two or three more specific questions which we would like to ask, and our time is running out, but we appreciate very much your thoughts and comments.

I think Mr. Pitts has a question or two for you.

MR. PITTS: My questions I will direct to Ms. Ferrand. I believe that is how you pronounce the name.



Ms. Ferrand, can you tell me how the residents are picked for the jobs?

MS. FERRAND: How they are picked?

MR. PITTS: Yes.

MS. FERRAND: There is no picking. It is just like Jeanne has said. You, if you are not quite up on the things and find out where you want to go, might get put anywhere.

You see, they have "X" amounts of jobs that you can go into. There are a lot of women that work on jobs they are not quite happy with, but if they say this is what you do, this is what you do.

But I was fortunate enough to know this is what I wanted to do, and this is what I did, because I thought it would be, economically, the thing for me to do. But in the long run, I got duped.

You are not picked. If you know where you want to go, you are placed.

MR. PITTS: Do you know how that determination is made, or who makes that?

MS. FERRAND: Your team.

MR. PITTS: Your team makes the determination?

MS. FERRAND: Yes. If you don't know where you want to go, then Team tells you where to go.

And sometimes you might want to go some place, and Team says, "Well, you would best be qualified here", and this is where Team will send you.

And they will tell you, "Try it out, and if you don't like it, you come back". Each time you come back, "Try it a little longer".

If you go someplace a day and you don't like it, you are not going to like it six months from now.

MR. PITTS: Do you know how the Team determines where they are going to place you?

MS. FERRAND: It depends on where they have an opening. And it depends on what your crime is. It is my understanding that if you have any type of drugs on a felony record, you can never work in any place where there is a hospital or drugs around.

But you have women there that are taking practical nursing or nursing aid's jobs, who are working in the hospital, but yet they have drugs on their records. Why qualify for this work and to do this type of work and when she gets back to society, she can't get a job in this field?

She has spent all her time there qualifying herself as a nurse's aid. Now her bust is for drugs. When she gets back to the city, wherever she comes from, and they say, "Where have you been for the last x amount of months?"

"I have been in Alderson, West Virginia.

"What was your charge?"

"It was for possession of drugs.

"We can't hire you".

That is a waste of that woman's time. It is a let-down to her, because of the fact she put her whole heart and everything into it, and she can't get a job at this field.

MR. PITTS: I know we are running over, but I have several more questions that I think are pertinent at this time.

Ms. Ferrand, do you know the best job on the campus?

MS. FERRAND: The best?

MR. PITTS: Yes. What would you consider to be the best job?

MS. FERRAND: If you are working in an office. It would give you some type of office ability for

when you got out.

I don't think there is any stipulations against a woman working in an office, regardless of what her record might have been.

MR. PITTS: What are the jobs you would consider, you know, that probably nobody wants?

MS. FERRAND: The dining room, because there is no pay.

MR. PITTS: What residents in, let us say -- are there any black residents working in offices?

MS. FERRAND: I beg your pardon?

MR. PITTS: Are there any black residents working in the offices?

MS. FERRAND: Are there many black residents working as officers?

MR. PITTS: No. In the offices.

MS. FERRAND: I couldn't really say. They have some. It has always been a way to make it -- put some of us there, you know, we are going to put some of us there. But I wouldn't say there was a majority of them.

MR. PITTS: The majority of the women on the campus are black. Is that correct?

MS. FERRAND: And Puerto Rican.

MR. PITTS: Are the majority of the jobs, the better jobs on the campus, held by blacks and other minorities?

MS. FERRAND: No. Because they don't qualify, educationalwise. It is a known fact they don't qualify.

But then again they are not given too much of an opportunity to bring their standards up to qualify for it, because of the fact that when you take the SAT Test, if you come out with a higher score, automatically you are put into an office.

This is how this is based. When you take that SAT Test, if you qualify with a high score, then they will say, "This woman needs to be put some place in an office, because she has a lot of sense".

But if you come out average, then you just do an average job.

MR. PITTS: Didn't you just say the Team sort of determines where you work?

MS. FERRAND: Yes.

MR. PITTS: And then you are also saying now that that determination is based on that test.

MS. FERRAND: If somebody has a very high

IQ, everybody's eyes open up.

MR. GIBBARD: Does everybody take the SAT Test?

MS. FERRAND: Everybody has to take the test. If a woman has a very high IQ, she is looked at in a different light. But if she is average, then nobody cares which way you go.

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: I think I will exercise my prerogative and ask the last question. Other than the matter of money, what recommendations would you have for improvement in conditions at the garment factory, where you work?

MS. FERRAND: I know one thing I would like to say before it is all over. The garment factory puts so much pressure on the woman, so far as the grades are concerned, that she very quickly, not really knowing what she is doing to herself, strays away from her education.

She will tell herself, "I can always go at night". But in order to make this quota during the day, she don't realize that when six o'clock comes that night, when she is ready to go to school, she is dead tired, and a dead tired person does not study well.

So I feel that it could be some help, the

garment factory could help a lot by not putting so much strain on these women.

It is set up. That is the way they set it up. Although I don't like the way it is set up, I think it could be changed, because I feel that every women that comes in there and qualifies to sew, that can set collars and pockets, I don't think they should be put on a grade basis. Put her on the basis of what she does.

She is working for you. She is earning it. If you tell me, "Come in here and set these pockets and you are not going to get any pay for it", I will have to accept this.

But if you tell me I can get paid and I know I can get the top grade pay because I can do the top grade work, then I expect this. I am working for it. I am not begging. I am working for it.

That is why every woman has a production slip. That is why every woman has to stand up and be counted for what she does.

They tell you they set up your grades on the production sheet basis. Then why can't she be done on that basis?

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: Are working conditions

otherwise reasonably pleasant?

MS. FERRAND: Pleasant?

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: Otherwise. I mean does it ever get too hot or is it too cold in the winter?

MS. FERRAND: Yes. That place has a tin roof on it. You sit in a place with a tin roof on it, under a machine, push material all day, you are bound to get hot.

Although they have blowers, it blows hot air. It is hot in there. When you come in in the morning, it is cold.

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: Do I understand that in the summer months you can go home, but if you go home, you don't get paid?

MS. FERRAND: Right. You do understand that. Right.

MS. HANDY: Going back to working, do you work ninety days and not get any money? Is that correct? Or thirty days? Is it my understanding that you have to buy your own personal hygiene, like deodorant, soap? Does they give you Tampax, sanitary napkins, or are you forced to buy that, too?

MS. FERRAND: You get sanitary napkins. Let



me tell you how they come in. I had the privilege of unpacking a box one day, because I didn't hear the bell. I was in the cottage and I didn't hear the bell. The next assignment, I was told to unpack these sanitary napkins.

When you buy them, they are covered some type of way. If you get twelve, they are just all slapped in a box, put a string around them. They are put on a shelf. They lay there. They gather dust. It is all kinds of little insects and things crawling around in Alderson, West Virginia. Everything is crawling over them.

This is going next to a woman's body.

I personally will not use them, because I have seen what happens, and I tell anyone that asks for them, "If you don't have any, come ask me. I will give you some", because they are not sanitary for you.

MS. HANDY: What is the price of Tampax at the commissary?

MS. FERRAND: \$1.75. They have no smaller boxes. You have to buy the large boxes, and that is \$1.75, right off the top, when we come back to that \$10.

MS. HANDY: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: I want to take this opportunity to thank you, Ms. Hammond, Ms. Ferrand and Ms.

Jantzen very much for participating on our program today.

[Witnesses excused]

CHAIRMAN McINTYRE: We will adjourn now,  
for lunch.

Because of the hour, we will adjourn until  
1:45.

[Whereupon, at 12:45 p.m., the Hearing in  
the above-entitled matter was recessed, to reconvene at  
1:45 p.m., the same day.]

I, Richard B. Daisey, a Certified Shorthand Reporter, do hereby certify that I did appear at the time and place specified in the caption hereof for the purpose of taking down in Stenotype Characters the matters set forth herein; that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the said matters; that the said transcript was transcribed into the English language by me and/or under my direction and supervision; that I am neither Counsel for nor related to any of the parties hereto and have no interest in the matter whatsoever.

*Richard B. Daisey*  
Certified Shorthand Reporter

May 24, 1974

Date

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