

AUG 25 1944

C.P.S. Unit No. 66  
Norristown St. Hosp.  
Norristown, Pa.  
August 25, 1944

Rev. Albert Gaeddert  
Mennonite Central Committee  
Akron, Pa.

Dear Rev. Gaeddert:

I know that I have at various times been critical of certain C.P.S. policies. I have realized that many of these criticisms were aimed at possible seeming injustices which never occurred. When I entered the unit at this hospital, I decided to refrain from finding "gripes" at every opportunity. However, this week there is a situation here which seems to me intolerable and certainly not to be accepted without protest.

For the past four nights one of the C.P.S. boys here has been working alone in the semi-violent section. That means that from 6:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m. this boy is in charge of 214 semi-violent patients. There is no other attendant in the building whom he can call upon in an emergency. He has charge of two floors and anything could happen on one floor while he was busy on the other. It seems that this is not only a flagrant injustice to the attendant but also to the patients and to their relatives. It is unbelievable that conscientious objectors will unprotestingly participate in this type of situation.

Admittedly there is a shortage of help here but it is due not only to the manpower situation but also to the despicable way in which the regular employees are treated by the state.

X We C.O.'s have been told repeatedly by returned and older patients that their personal treatment has been improved greatly since the C.P.S. men have arrived however, conditions in general seem to be getting worse. The supervising staff has discovered that the average C.O. is very slow to protest an injustice to himself or a patient. As a result they (the supervisors) will try and push the boys to the limit in physical labor and moral responsibility.

Continued weariness  
Recently four of the boys here changed to I-A. Of these four, perhaps two never really held the sincere convictions for Christian objection to war. The other two admitted that they could no longer put up with the conditions under which they were forced to work.

It is becoming increasingly evident that our unit leader either is incapable of or has no interest in furthering the welfare of the individuals in the unit. He can not help but



hear of boys having a vacation denied them because of the personal prejudice of a supervisor; of situations such as the one in the semi-violent section at the present, and of other similar incidents. Still he repeatedly insists that things are going quite well and if he does protest, he usually seems to be quite easily persuaded by the hospital authorities that the situation was unavoidable. Evidently you or any of the M.C.C. authorities have not been informed of these happenings.

The boys here are anxious to give their service in this positive cause for helping humanity but they cannot be expected to work blindly and faithfully while obstacles and hinderances are permitted on all sides. There is very little unity in the group, due largely to the director's attitude. We have never been told just how much we must stand for before the M.C.C. or Selective Service will stand behind our protests.

I have been told that Dr. Noyes has refused to speak to the C.P.S. meetings because he feared the antagonism of the regular employees. When 95 of his employees are C.O.'s that attitude certainly does not indicate that he is interested in the welfare of the boys.

It seems imperative that the M.C.C. should send a representative here to talk with a true cross section of the men personally and in group meetings. If such an investigation succeeded in finding the situation satisfactory to the majority then I will admit that my observations were distorted and perhaps exceptional and infrequent instances.

I sincerely believe that the conditions here are permitted to continue because of the ignorance of the M.C.C. and Selective Service to their existence rather than to negligence and disinterest on the part of these organizations.

Thank you again for your kindness and consideration of previous letters and requests of mine.

Sincerely yours,

*J. Willard Linscheid*  
J. Willard Linscheid

*Answer  
assure our interest  
need of continued support & leader*