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NEW JERSEY STATE HOSPITAL
MARLBORO, NEW JERSEY

JOSEPH N. BYLER
DIRECTOR

LORIS HABEGGER
UNIT LEADER

MAY 18 1943

May 14, 1943

J. N. Byler
Director of Hospital Units
Mennonite Central Committee
Akron, Pennsylvania

Dear Bro. Byler:

I am receipt of your letter calling the attention of the hospital assignees to any grievances or complaints which they might have.

At this place we have solved most problems as they came along. The hours of work, time off, living conditions, and food have been very satisfactory and there is no cause in any of those fields for complaint.

Our employer relations, as far as we have been able to determine, have been very satisfactory. In the matter of clothing, some questions have been brought up. Some of the hospitals give dress clothing, shoes, shirts, and such items as are essential to maintenance in general while in the employment of such an institution. Here we get our white uniforms only. This includes the trousers and coat. There has been an order issued for attendants to wear white shirts also. Dr. Gordon stated that we might wear our colored shirts but that when they are worn out they should be replaced at our expense with white shirts. There has been no complaint on that score though as we have reached the understanding with Dr. Gordon and we know just where we stand.

In recent weeks the matter of furloughs once again came to the fore. We seemingly had trouble getting to the proper sources for granting of furloughs. If the institution authorities intend to give the furloughs, they must expect to have the fellows leaving from time to time. Two of the men had spoken for leave before the furlough ban and were promised it. After the furlough ban was lifted, it was quite difficult to get any action on requested furloughs and it was fully 2½ weeks until we could work out anything which appeared to be uniform and right in the granting of and requesting of furlough. At present we have a method worked out whereby we are able to submit requests but have trouble getting a quick answer either "yes" or "no". The men fully understand that the granting of furlough is in the hands of the hospital and have no complaint on that score but they feel that they have a right to an

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earlier response to their requests so that they may make their plans accordingly. At the same time the man are cognizant of the fact that emergencies may come in the hospital administration and are ready and willing to make adjustments for such situations. A more uniform and clear cut way of handling this would be appreciated.

Another thing that has caused some apprehension and misgivings among the group is that members of the unit have observed other attendants and nurses in their methods of handling patients, at times even copying those methods. To the consternation of some, they have been apprehended in these acts and are called to task for them. One instance of course led to transfer of a man and the other case is now pending. There is now a feeling that "we are too honest for this racket". I can personally say that the meeting we had this week to discuss such problems among ourselves was very revealing and the same time even more helpful. We rethought our testimony and are convinced that the real Christian stands by and rides out the storm come what may. We are hoping to work out some solution to these problems as these very likely will not to be taken care of by any Selective Service directive.

Other than these mentioned problems, I feel that we have come a long way in our testimony and work and we trust that a more uniform administrative dictate by Selective Service will go a long way to assist in the solution to our problems.

Sincerely yours

Loris A. Habegger
Loris A. Habegger, leader
C.P.S. Unit 63

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