

MAY 18 1945

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May 16, 1945

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Dr. John R. Ross
H.R.S.M.
Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Ross:

The members of C.P.S. unit number 144 would like to make their position clear ^{with} ~~in~~ regards to the violent treatment of patients in Ryon Hall and the subsequent reporting thereof.

First of all, we are opposed to violent treatment of patients on the same basis that we are opposed to war--because of our belief in love and goodwill as taught in the New Testament. We are also opposed to this on plain and simple humanitarian grounds. Thirdly, it is our understanding that "any abuse or mistreatment" of patients is to be reported, according to the official rules and regulations of the hospital.

However, we also wish to go on record to whomever it may concern that we believe in the principle of goodwill and forgiveness to those with whom we work. We did not realize that the reporting of these incidents would result in their immediate dismissal. Although we realize that we have nothing to do with the policy of this institution, it would definitely be the preference of the unit that the four attendants who were suspended be given another chance after a clear understanding on the issue of violence and abuse.

The policy of our church agency with men under their sponsorship who have committed wanton violence in a mental hospital is to give them a very clear and thorough reprimand and then give them another chance, dismissing them if there is another case of violence demonstrated. We would like to see this same policy applied to these men that has been applied to our own C.P.S. men in the past.

Sincerely yours,

Bertran D. Smucker