Wally Nelson, Milan:

“Wally Nelson describes the visiting hour of a non-cooperator: ‘Finally, you are visited by your parents. You must sit across a table from your parents without being allowed to embrace them. An officer is present. Besides being there to listen in on the conversation, and even to join in should he feel moved to, he’s to be a time keeper. That is, he’s armed with a time piece to make sure that the visit does not go over the allotted time. While the rule definitely states, an inmate is allowed one hour each month, a visit may be cut as short as the officials desire without previous warning. But here’s the pay-off: the officials seize upon this occasion as an opportunity to bring additional pressure upon you, the inmate, to ‘whip’ you into line. Therefore they will make some half-true statements to your parents. Since that release for their son is the foremost thought in their minds, what could be more effective than for the officials to tell your parents that if you decide to cooperate and return to population parole would be reconsidered for you? Or they might say that all you have to do is to sign without explaining what it is you sign, and parole will be granted you. In both instances their purpose is accomplished because of the deep love your parents have for you plus this dramatic situation: they are so emotionally wrought up until they are blindly led to believe that it’s just your stubbornness which keeps you from being paroled. The truth of the matter is that in the first place, should you compromise your deepest convictions and leave your non-cooperation, you could only look forward to your being reconsidered for parole. This providing they live up to their promise: mind you, and this is quite important, no promise has been made that the parole board will pass you. This is the fact that your parents failed to see. With regard to the matter of your signing and this would assure parole for you, this is plain subterfuge. Again it’s understandable, how you parents’ emotional condition prevents them from seeing what is at play. The visit ends. Your parents leave, more confused than they were before they came. You leave wounded to your heart because you realize how cruel and inhuman it was that the officials would misuse your parents in such a fashion.’”

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