

COMMITTEE TO END THE MARION LOCKDOWN

February 3, 1987

Gary Henman, Warden
USP Marion
Box 1000
Marion, IL 62959

Re: Rejection of CEML's Letter to the Prisoners

Dear Warden Henman:

As you may know, we recently convened a conference to mark the third anniversary of the shameful lockdown at Marion. We wrote a letter and mailed it, at great expense, to most of the men held at Marion. The letters were posted December 18, 1986. On January 26, 1987 over one month later, the letters were all returned to us. Someone had taken pains to carefully stamp "return to sender" directly over the name of the prisoner on each of the envelopes. We were most dissatisfied to learn that you refused to let the men receive our flier. You failed to provide us with any justification for this censorship. We think there exists no justification for your censorship.

While our common sense tells us your actions are wrong, our research reveals that your censorship violates even your own rules. Program Statement 5266.5, effective date February 4, 1986, prohibits you from rejecting a publication solely because its content is political or unpopular or even repugnant. It also requires you to send the sender a rejection letter and provide for an independent review, as well as notify the addressee of the rejection and your reasons therefor. You have apparently not bothered to comply with your own regulations.

Kindly provide me us a written statement of reasons for rejecting the letter, as well as reasons for why you could not simply excise any portion you determined to be problematic. We look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely yours,

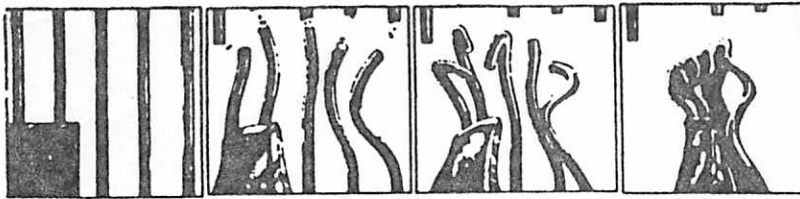
On behalf of the Committee
to End the Marion Lockdown

cc: George Wilkinson
Regional Director

COMMITTEE TO END THE MARION LOCKDOWN

407 South Dearborn, Room 370, Chicago, IL 60605 312-427-2539

343 S. Dearborn #1601 Chicago



COMMITTEE TO END THE MARION LOCKDOWN

February 3, 1987

George Wilkinson
Regional Director
Bureau of Prisons
Air World Center, 2nd Floor
10920 Ambassador Drive
Kansas City, MO 64153

Re: Censorship at Marion

Dear George Wilkinson:

Gary L. Henman, Warden at USP Marion, recently intercepted mail sent by us to prisoners at Marion. A sample of the letter we sent is attached to this letter. Mr. Henman sent the prisoners' mail back to us, failing to specify any reasons for refusing to let the men receive the letter. It is our position that the letter contained nothing bearing on the security of the prison. Of course it criticizes the oppressive policy of the lockdown and the Control Unit, but such criticisms do not, nor are they intended to, disrupt the prison.

We protest the censorship and the fact that this warden refused even to let the men review the letter thus making it next to impossible for them to register any meaningful grievance about the rejection.

We want the prisoners to receive the letter. We think you should overrule the warden's decision. Please let us hear from you.

Sincerely yours,

On behalf of the Committee
to End the Marion Lockdown

Enclosure

COMMITTEE TO END THE MARION LOCKDOWN
~~407 South Dearborn, Room 370, Chicago, IL 60605 312-427-2539~~

343 S. Dearborn #1607 Chicago



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Prisons

U.S. Penitentiary

Marion, IL 62959

February 17, 1987

Mr. Steve Whitman
Committee to End the
Marion Lockdown
343 S. Dearborn
Room 1607
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Dear Mr. Whitman:

In response to your recent letter requesting a written statement of reasons for rejecting letters sent to inmates from the Committee to End the Marion Lockdown, our investigation reveals that the only letters returned to your committee were those of inmates that had been transferred or released from this institution prior to November 1, 1986. Your letters to inmates at this facility have been delivered.

For the above-stated reasons, I do not believe we have violated Bureau of Prisons' policy and procedures for processing incoming publications. Specifically, we did not censor or reject the publications, and there was no need to send rejection letters to you.

I trust this information answers your questions, and clarifies our position. If we may be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "G. L. Henman", is written over the typed name.

G. L. Henman
Warden



U. S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Prisons

North Central Regional Office

*Air World Center (2nd Floor)
10920 Ambassador Drive
Kansas City, MO 64153*

February 23, 1987

Steve Whitman
Committee to End the Marion Lockdown
c/o 343 South Dearborn #1607
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Dear Mr. Whitman:

This is in response to your correspondence of February 3, 1987 alleging the Warden of the U.S. Penitentiary at Marion, Illinois rejected prisoner mail without notice.

The Warden has responded to your allegations by correspondence of February 17, 1987, a copy of which is enclosed.

I trust this answers your allegations.

Sincerely,

G.C. Wilkinson
Regional Director

enclosure