

1 A I have never been in that room.

402

2 Q What I was trying to discuss with you but since
3 you are not familiar with it, I will abandon the subject,
4 is the fact that the visiting room in HBZ where the
5 offenders against the institution are confined does
6 not have a screen, whereas the visiting room in the
7 institution which is available to the general popula-
8 tion, which is observing the rules, has the screen.

9 A Well, as far as I know that is just true.
10 That's just a room. Just a plain room. But that's
11 generally true with all the inmates in HBZ. They
12 continually break all rules and regulations that they
13 could possibly break.

14 All night long they are screaming. I work
15 in the hospital next to the HBZ right now and they are
16 screaming all night long over there.

17 Which isn't very handy for the patients in
18 the hospital. But they are not stopped.

19 Q In your years in this institution, have you
20 formed any conclusion as to whether all of the inmates
21 in Attica belong in a maximum security institution?

22 A Of course they don't. No.

23 We have every type of inmate that you could
24 imagine in the institution.

25 A classification of inmate I think is something

1 that the department is looking into now.

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2 They are discussing a maxi-maxi institution. May of
3 the programs that the State has put forth so far and
4 the rehabilitation, if you will, are hampered by cer-
5 tain percentage of the inmates who are bound to de-
6 termine that they wouldn't change and that they are going
7 to stop everybody else from changing too. It is very,
8 very unfair for a new inmate to be put in with certain
9 of these individuals who have a seemingly, some kind
10 of control over them.

11 Q And what leads you to conclude that the older
12 inmate has the control over the newer one?

13 A Because of their determination, their ideas.
14 They are more or less hero figures. They are people
15 that continually degrade the system. People who work
16 in the system.

17 Q When you say degrade it, is that different
18 from criticizing it?

19 A Well, criticize, degrade, whatever you will.
20 And these few inmates are subjected to that and rather
21 than face ridicule or not fitting--not being able to
22 fit into a group, they resist the opportunities that are
23 presented to them.

24 Q Mr. Goewey, here you have, you say, inmates
25 who are being encouraged to give disrespect for authority

1 and to degrade the system and yet, on the other 404
2 part of the scale, you have nothing at Attica really
3 to try to restore confidence to the system, is that
4 fair?

5 A Well, nothing--I don't think it is fair to
6 say nothing.

7 Q A minimum?

8 A It could be greatly improved on, yes. The
9 people who are in the particular fields of education,
10 vocational training and the like are very dedicated
11 people who are attempting to do a good job but they
12 need more.

13 Q How have your relationships been with the
14 inmates?

15 A I haven't had much trouble with the inmates
16 personally.

17 Q And why is that?

18 A I don't know. I don't know. Maybe because
19 I work nights. But, of course, I have had difficulties
20 in the past on occasion but not generally speaking.

21 Q Why did you chose night work? What are your
22 hours?

23 A My hours are 11 to 7 right now.

24 Q 11 at night to 7 in the morning?

25 A That's correct.

1 Q Why did you choose night work? 405

2 A I didn't really choose it. When I first
3 started with the department here at Attica, I worked
4 two and a half days on days and automatically went
5 on nights. And I worked on nights for about five years
6 before I had the opportunity to go on days and by the
7 time that opportunity did arise, I was perfectly
8 content with continuing with what I was doing.

9 Q And do you get extra compensation for working
10 nights?

11 A We get \$300 a year, yes.

12 Q Working in the hospital at night, you do not
13 have very much contact with the inmates when they are
14 being seen at sick call by the doctors?

15 A No.

16 Q But you know Dr. Williams, am I correct?

17 A Yes, I do.

18 Q And you have heard over the years a good deal
19 of criticism about the way inmates are handled at the
20 hospital?

21 A The inmates, many inmates do complain about
22 it, yes.

23 Q And do you have any comments on the subject?

24 A Well, yes. I just happen to know that Dr.
25 Williams is a very dedicated doctor, man. And that he

1 is subjected with many, many cases of inmates who 406
2 go to the hospital just to take a walk somewhere,
3 just to get away from, out of their cell or away from
4 their job for a while. And he has to determine
5 whether the inmate is over here because he actually
6 is suffering from one thing or another or whether he
7 is putting on.

8 This causes the doctor to be less patient,
9 I suppose.

10 Q Do you think that there is something wrong
11 with the system where an inmate has to go to a sick
12 call in order to get out of his cell or get a little
13 bit of variety?

14 A I think this is true in--not only in the
15 institutions but it is true in industry and the services
16 and every place else. Everybody likes a little change
17 ones in a while.

18 Q And these inmates want, in addition to change,
19 they want somebody to pay some attention to them?

20 A That's right. They go over there to have
21 somebody pay personal attention to them, I suppose, on
22 certain occasions, but these would be the repeat type
23 inmates who--where the doctor would be able to pick out
24 very quickly, I'm sure.

25 Q He doesn't have either the time, the temperament

1 to give them this type of help?

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2 A It must be frustrating when you are trying
3 to do a job such as he is.

4 Q He is your personal doctor?

5 A He is my personal doctor, yes.

6 Q You have told me that you go to him for
7 medical services, not for bedside manner?

8 A That's right. He is a very dedicated and a
9 very, very good doctor.

10 Q But the inmates at Attica want somebody there
11 to show them some bedside manner, whether it is a
12 doctor or somebody else, isn't that your observation?

13 A I think many people not only in the inmate
14 society but in general society, go to a doctor for this
15 reason. It is nothing too unusual.

16 Q Do you find--did you find in the days before
17 you took the hospital job that inmates would want to
18 confide in you at all about their problems?

19 A In many cases they do, yes.

20 Q Is there anybody else they could turn to,
21 really, in the system to give them some help?

22 A Yes. You have your chaplains who do a great
23 deal for the inmates.

24 If you are in direct contact with particular
25 inmates over a long period of time, then they will go

1 to you for counsel and advice.

408

2 Q Did you observe that over the last few
3 years inmates began to seek counsel among themselves?

4 A I think they always have.

5 Q But newer type groups came into existence?

6 A Yes. If you join a particular group, then--
7 and matters that the group is interested, you will seek
8 this particular group out for counsel.

9 Q Did you regard the formation of groups such
10 as the Muslim group, the Young Lord group, the Panther
11 Party as a threat to your security?

12 A Well now, you have taken several groups and
13 probably one group would be less guilty than another.
14 But generally speaking, yes.

15 Q And what did you base that conclusion on?

16 A Organization of resistance.

17 Q In the correction system as it existed for
18 years, there used to be a rule that inmates could not
19 assemble in great numbers in the yard, am I correct?

20 A That's correct.

21 Q And did officers become concerned when they
22 would see these groups assembling in the yard?

23 A Of course. If you are an officer in the yard
24 and you see a large group of people assembling like that,
25 you begin to wonder just what they're up to.

1 Q And how would you find out what they were 409

2 up to?

3 A There isn't any way of finding out what they're

4 up to.

5 Q And you feared the worse?

6 A You tend to do that, yes.

7 Q That was one of the causes of apprehension

8 among correction officers before September 9?

9 A Yes, it was. That and the filtering bits

10 of information that you would pick up from conversations,

11 direct statements from inmates. Pieces of paper with

12 certain things written down about violence and so on,

13 yes.

14 Q There always have been a lot of distrust

15 of violence in a prison, haven't there, knives, things

16 like that?

17 A There have been knives and shives, yes. Still

18 are.

19 Q And there have always been inmates who talked

20 about tearing down the joint, haven't there?

21 A Well, it is certain you will find, always

22 find some, but the past few years have been much much

23 more.

24 Q And there was much, much more unrest?

25 A Among the inmates, that's right.

1 Q And you saw the unrest building? 410

2 A Yes, we did.

3 Q You asked for riot training and a warning
4 system and even that was denied you?

5 A Well, it wasn't denied but it wasn't granted
6 either.

7 Q It just wasn't given?

8 A It just never happened, that's all.

9 Q The program changes were coming very slowly?

10 A Yes, they were.

11 MR. MC KAY: Mr. Goewey, you are aware
12 that you might make a statement of your own either
13 now or at the conclusion of the members of the
14 commission. So you might think about that and
15 do whatever you wish.

16 EXAMINATION BY MR. MC KAY:

17 Q I want to ask one or two questions about
18 HBZ which you said was formerly referred to as the box.

19 As far as we know the inmates still refer to
20 it as that with authority or not?

21 A The State changed the name but it is still
22 the same place.

23 Q Does HBZ stand for anything?

24 A It only stands for housing block Zebra.

25 It designates the particular area in the insti-

1 tution.

411

2 Q You were there for 12 years?

3 A Yes.

4 Q How many--what was the capacity in terms of
5 inmates of HBZ at that time?

6 A The capacity is 50. However we only had five
7 or six at the most generally speaking. Unless we had
8 a particular large incident occur.

9 Q What were the inmates sentenced to HBZ for or
10 sent to HBZ for typically and for how long a period
11 on the average?

12 A Well, we had, for instance, if there was
13 a fight in the mess hall is a very strategic part of the
14 institution because of the number of inmates in the
15 given area at one particular time.

16 So when there is a disturbance in the mess
17 hall, the people involved in it would be put into the
18 box, another term, into segregation. To keep the fight
19 from spreading actually. Others were inmates who were
20 simply refused to obey any of the rules and regulations
21 of the prison society. Others were people who were
22 giving difficulty to the department.

23 Q So in general it was the aggravated offenders
24 against the rules of the institution?

25 A Yes.

1 Q How long was the typical sentence? 412

2 A Well, it was something like two months. I
3 would say that would be an average.

4 Q With that small a number under your custody,
5 you must have known them very well as individuals. You
6 would know all their names, of course. What would
7 you call inmates at that time if you wanted to speak
8 to one or ask him to do something or tell him to do
9 something.

10 Mr. Jones or Jones or some other form of address?

11 A It would vary as to the, how well you knew
12 him. Sometimes you wouldn't say mister or Joe or
13 anything else. You would say, like for instance, it's
14 time for breakfast, you will have to come get your
15 food.

16 You don't go on down and say Mister So and So,
17 it is time for your breakfast. On other occasions
18 if you knew the inmate you would call him by his first
19 name. Depending on how well you knew him.

20 Q Was the practice there particular different
21 than in dealing with inmates in other parts of the in-
22 stitution?

23 A No.

24 Q You left HBZ on a job bidding basis because
25 you found you were left without adequate authority to

1 deal with the problems you found there. Did I 413
2 understand you correctly? I am not sure I did. You
3 say you went to E Block at some later time?

4 A I transferred out of HBZ to D Block.

5 Q Were you ever in E Block?

6 A D?

7 Q E.

8 A Yes, I have been.

9 Q Why did you go to E Block if you found HBZ too
10 restrictive on your authority because I understand
11 E Block is a more permissive part of the institution?

12 A Yes, because you could handle people on a
13 closer basis than you can in HBZ.

14 In other words, you can talk to people and
15 discuss things with them. They are standing face to
16 face with you and they are on a common ground.

17 Q How many men would you have under your super-
18 vision in E Block at any time?

19 A We had 30 or 40.

20 Q And would you know all of them by name?

21 A I wasn't there long enough. I got to know most
22 of them by name. I believe one of them you are going
23 to talk to in this hearing.

24 Q When you were in D Block, how long were you
25 there?

1 A I was in D Block about a year and a half. 414

2 Q So you knew all the inmates there by name
3 in your company?

4 A No. I was a hall captain there. I didn't
5 deal with--

6 Q How many individuals in a hall?

7 A 500.

8 Q Would it be fair to summarize general reaction
9 to the changing situation in the institution, I take it
10 other institutions in the State, by saying you believe
11 if it were possible to return to the older more re-
12 strictive rules the tensions and difficulties would
13 be reduced?

14 A No, I don't think that's correct. I don't think
15 that going backwards solves anything. I think we
16 should go ahead. Let's do away with these rules if we
17 are not going to enforce them so we know where we stand
18 and the inmates know where they stand.

19 Q Then you don't particular object to the present
20 level of actual rule enforcement if it were stated that
21 that is the rule?

22 A No, I have no objection to it.

23 Q Do you think it would be helpful to be more
24 permissive for the future?

25 A Permissive?
