

Edward Corwin
Box 1056
Oak Park, IL 60304

August 7, 1986

The Honorable Cardiss Collins
United States House of Representatives
2264 Rayburn Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Collins:

It has been six months since that shocking article appeared in Chicago magazine about the lockdown at the U. S. Penitentiary at Marion, Illinois. The unrest that brought about this condition in October 1983 was unquestionably the result of arbitrary and capricious hazing by the prison management. The trouble began after the arrival of a new warden several years earlier, one Harold Miller. Miller's new policies became a serious threat to the personal safety of the prison staff, and, finally, the expected altercation occurred, killing two guards and one prisoner. After getting Marion into lockdown, he moved on to Lewisburg. Within two weeks of his arrival Lewisburg was locked down.

The conditions at Marion are, themselves, criminal actions every bit as vile as the crimes that landed the inmates at Marion in the first place. And they are being committed in the name of us citizens and with our tax dollars. That makes us all accomplices, putting us in the same moral class with the real criminals, thus depriving us of our right to pass judgment on them.

On the practical side, professional psychologists who have observed this scene have concluded that these conditions can only lead to catastrophe. It has been suggested that the object of this treatment is "total control". There is no such thing. Attempts to establish it can only result in total rage. And that is uncontrollable.

Very truly yours,

Edward F. Corwin

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

CARDISS COLLINS

7TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

October 14, 1986

Mr. Edward Corwin
P.O. Box 1056
Oak Park, Illinois 60304

Dear Mr. Corwin:

Thank you for your correspondence concerning the lockdown at the U.S. Penitentiary at Marion, Illinois. I appreciate your information.

I agree that the lockdown at Marion is a concern for all Americans. You will be pleased to know that the House Judiciary Committee has conducted an investigation of this situation. Unfortunately, due to the independence of the Federal Department of Justice, it is difficult to initiate change at the prison.

Once again, thank you for your correspondence. Please continue to keep me informed about this situation.

Yours truly,

Cardiss Collins
CARDISS COLLINS
Member of Congress

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PLEASE SEND REPLY TO:

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