

Thoughts From THE HEART

BY: Joseph Smith

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0130hrs

"WHAT IS GOING ON"
???????

THE WRITER ONCE AGAIN FIND SLEEP HARD TO
COME BY TONIGHT - PUT ON AN "EARTH-WIND-FIRE"
CD WHILE THE WRITER TRIED TO DESENSITIZE
THE EVENTS OF PRESENT DAY HERE AT NORTH CENTRAL
CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION LOCATED IN MARION, OHIO.
THE PRESIDENT WAS ON, GIVING THE STATE OF
THE UNION ADDRESS. THE WRITER FOUND IT TO
BE POLITICAL, BUT WELL CRAFTED, IT ROSE ABOVE
THE USUAL POLITICAL "PEP TALK" ON THE STATE OF
THE COUNTRY, BUT BROUGHT ON A NEW PERSPECTIVE
TO THE POLITICAL SCENE. BEFORE HIS ASSASSINATION
IN APRIL 1968, MARTIN L. KING JR. PREACHED, "LET US
BE DISSATISFIED AS A NATION OF THE "STATUS QUO
OF OUR NATION" THE WRITER HEAR THE EFFECT OF THESE
WORDS TONIGHT, ^{"MORE"} THAN EVER BEFORE. ~~IT WAS~~

SOME OF MY PERSONAL SUFFERINGS OVER
THE LAST FEW YEARS AND DURING MY

Days of Youth, have also served to shape my thinking. I always hesitate to mention these experiences for fear of conveying the wrong impression. A person who constantly calls attention to his trials and sufferings is in danger of developing a martyr complex and impressing others that he is consciously seeking sympathy. But I feel somewhat justified in mentioning them in my writings, because I am convinced, that the ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge, controversy and injustice. This is why, I take a second look at everything, even myself. MTC has boasted prior to taking over, that they could operate this prison better and more effective as well efficiency. MTC must hold classes on this sectarian message. For this seems to be the arrogant mentality of all their employees. O.K. sounds good. But just don't talk the talk- walk it. The signs in their unit staff offices have just went up, "Do not disturb" or "No open door policy." etc, etc, etc.

THE DISPARITY IN THE TREATMENT OF PRISONERS OF COLOR IN EVERY ASPECT OF INSTITUTIONAL LIFE IS OVERT - NOT TO SAY, WHEN THE STATE WAS IN CONTROL, THERE WAS NOT SUCH ^{THINGS} GOING ON, BECAUSE IT WAS, BUT THESE PEOPLE ARE SO ARROGANT - THEY DO WHAT THEY WANT TO DO. MAYBE THAT'S WHY SOME EMPLOYEES HAVE DECIDED TO LEAVE, EVIL AND INJUSTICE CAN ONLY TRANSCEND, IF GOOD PEOPLE DO NOTHING. AND THERE ARE NOT ENOUGH GOOD PEOPLE LEFT HERE, NOT TO SAY EVERYONE HERE HAS THEIR OWN PERSONAL AGENDA, BUT THEY KNOW WHERE THEIR PAY CHECK IS COMING FROM - AND WITH NO UNION PROTECTION - "HERE TODAY, GONE TOMORROW". MTC BOASTED AT THE TOWN HALL MEETINGS THEY HELD WITH THE PRISONERS TWO WEEKS BEFORE [MTC] THEY TOOK OVER; MEDICAL WILL BE BETTER; MUCH BETTER, ~~WHEN~~ - WHEN; THE STATE OF OHIO WAS HERE, THE WRITER JUST FILED A COMPLAINT ABOUT MEDICAL TREATMENT OR THE LACK OF IT. IT'S SO CHAOTIC IN MEDICAL, LAST NIGHT I REFUSED TO TAKE INSULIN, WILL NOT GO INTO THIS UNTIL I WRITE IT UP, BUT IT WAS NOT SAFE DOWN THERE THAT NIGHT; AND THIS WAS DUE IN PART ALSO, ~~DO~~ TO MY OR RATHER OTHER PRISONERS PLAYING GAMES WITH THE NURSES - AND THEM NOT TAKING CONTROL OF THE

SITUATION- THE WRITER HAS VERY MIXED FEELINGS ABOUT MEDICAL CARE AND TREATMENT WITHIN PRISON.

BECAUSE I THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX, THERE ARE MILLIONS OF PEOPLE IN THE FREE WORLD WHO JUST CAN'T AFFORD HEALTH CARE; OR DON'T HAVE IT AT ALL. I ALWAYS HAVE TO DEFEND MY CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO HEALTH CARE TO THE SAME PEOPLE THAT WAS HIRED TO [PROVIDE IT]- THEIR QUESTION

IS ALWAYS THE SAME- "IF YOU WERE ON THE STREETS YOU WOULD ^{NOT} HAVE HEALTH CARE"

I REMIND THEM OF THEIR PRESENT SITUATION,

"YOU WORK IN A PRISON AS A NURSE, IT'S YOUR JOB, BUT MOST OF ALL, YOUR DUTY"

AND WORST CASE- I'M A VETERAN LIFE TIME

HEALTH CARE, BUT IT LIKE I SAID, I HAVE

VERY MIXED FEELINGS ON THE ISSUE AND

I TRIED 2 KEEP PERSONAL FEELINGS OUT

BUT, WHEN YOU DEALING WITH PEOPLE WHO

HAS ALL THE ANSWERS, IT'S HARD. I DON'T

CLAIM TO BE FREE FROM MORAL DILEMMAS,

BUT I HAVE LEARNED: "MAN'S DIGNITY RISES

FROM HIS ABILITY TO REASON, AND THUS

TO CHOOSE FREELY, THE "GOOD"- IN PREFERENCE

TO EVIL OR HATE" SO AS MLK

SAID IN 1968- THE WRITER SAYS IT- IN 2012,

THE WRITER IS DISSATISFIED AS ^{AN} PERSON OF

THE STATUS QUO HERE AT NORTH CENTRAL PRISON.

YOU [MTC] BOASTED (4) YOU WERE BETTER- NOT SO

SLEEPLESS IN OHIO