Reply I.D. tddp

Ms Calhoun,

Oh, there are numerous adjectives which one could use to describe my world, but "peaceful" would not be one of them! So give you a (jail) bird's eye view of what I've encountered since you last stopped by let me give you a synopsis of what's happened in my life over the past two years.

As you may recall, I was in the process of investigating the diminution of the quality and quantity of the food being served at the Hill Corr. Center for their "Brunch Program", primarily through the use of the F.O.I.A. The results of my endeavors and the harassment I received in response from the prison system are outlined in my article "First Amendment Under Attack in Illinois' Prisons: The Price of Dissent", which I hope you've had the time to read. I'm pleased to report that the Brunch Program has been terminated, statewide. How much my efforts played into that, I can't say, but it's the results that count.

In March 2015, I was transferred to the Western Illinois Corr. Center, where I devoted most of my time to assisting other prisoners with their legal problems, and

engaging in my personal studies of French - my fiancée is a Belgian national - and chess, which can be a most humbling game. I penned one article, an "Open Letter to Governor Rauner", which identified $1.2 million in waste in the leasing of 13 buildings in Chicago, but - surprise, surprise! - none of the state officials I shared this information with ever contacted me about it. Business as usual in Illinois, I suppose.

Moving on to the present, I once again find myself in hot water - I feel like a rabbit in Mecca - with the administration, and in this instance, not for something I wrote, but rather, for what an outside organization sent me.

As an activist and writer, my compositions have been shared with a number of prison reform groups, and in turn, they regularly send me their publications. In early June, The Incarcerated Workers of the World sent me a newsletter, seeking to commemorate the 45th anniversary of the Attica prison uprising, and in it, they asked prisoners around the U.S. to refrain from working on September 9th. As the mail room had delivered this publication to me, I thought nothing of it, and tossed it into my pile of prison 'zines.

On June 17th my room was searched, and when this newsletter was discovered, I was immediately placed in segregation, and charged with possessing "dangerous written material". When I appeared before the Adjustment Committee, they acknowledged that the mail room had delivered the newsletter to me, but nonetheless, they

found me guilty of the charge, and sentenced me to six months in segregation and a disciplinary transfer. And so, for the immediate future, I'll be locked in a 10'x6' cage, with no television, radio, typewriter or fan, and worst of all, I have but a couple books, and I'll soon be suffering from intellectual anemia! What prison I'll end up in, your guess is as good as mine, but I understand that President Obama said that I wasn't welcome in Guantanamo Bay.

As for Brexit, much of what will come of it is unknown, as neither those for or against leaving did an extensive analysis of its consequences, as the Scottish government did prior to their 2014 referendum. They prepared a 648 page white paper, which showed the public what an independent Scotland would look like. With that not being done here, what happens next is to be determined. What sort of free movement will the EU demand for open access to their markets? Will their banking industry be challenged by Frankfort or Dublin in the derivatives market?

In a sense, what has happened there is analogous to what you hear Trump preaching - vote for me and I'll restore all those "lost" jobs. Folks, those textile jobs in South Carolina, they're gone; those 1500 Maytag jobs from Centralia, Illinois, they're in Mexico. That's how capitalism works. Unless you're a prison guard or cop, the days of low skill, high paying jobs are over. The key to success is education, not a government nanny state.

I trust that your friend is getting some hands-on experience in the Cook County Jail. In these prisons, they

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only that you if you act out.

Well my friend, I hope you can read this - I'm writing with a 4" flexible "sig" pen - and I hope you'll be in touch soon. The next several months will be a challenge, and every letter is like a "Care Package" for the soul. Take care, my friend.