

REAL TALK - THE VIEW OF A CONNECTICUT PRISONER Vol.4 No.1
By Richard Stevenson

GREETINGS FREE WORLD! GREAT NEW YEAR! Well, once again the tablets have been put on hold. Initially it was due to the problems they were having in operating them at ANOTHER facility. Here in Cheshire, they were pretending that they could escort only 2 contractors. At other facilities there are 3 teams of 2 contractors at least. These sadists are dragging their feet every way that they can. Some are now giddy that the Coronavirus has hit the country. Though the contractors don't come anywhere near us they are not allowed into the prison. Remember, there are only 2 of them. We are more anxious than ever.

Now on to something far more important. Listen, we all want you all to take care of yourselves. I MEAN IT! Take care of yourselves, please. CROVID-19 is no joke. We just found out today that a total of 7 prisoners and 1 C/O at 2 different prisons tested positive for coronavirus. It hasn't hit here as of this date (4/1/20).

The President initially announced it to be a democratic hoax and then blamed the media for hyping it up then blamed China for not being transparent. The World Health Organization offered to share what they discovered about the virus back in January but the president declined their offer saying "We got It." True transparency would reveal if this man invested in companies developing test kits, vaccines, ventilators, et al.

Don't be surprised how hard the prison system in this state gets hit. They just started gunning (for temp.) employees as they come in last week. One officer came in sick with a cough though she knows that she shouldn't have. Prisoners who clean the showers are not given proper PPE even before the pandemic hit. Understandably, we haven't had visits at least a couple of weeks now. So far no one has tested positive at this facility. There is no school or programs. But those of us who have jobs still go to work. We no longer are allowed to go to the gym. They are not "training" on Wednesdays and Fridays so the facility isn't locked down on those days. This warden seems a bit more reasonable than some of those in the past.

We were just given masks made of T-shirt material constructed at another Connecticut facility. It's better than nothing. We were surprised because we generally are not allowed to cover our faces with anything. So I am grateful. The C/O's were upset because they were given masks made of the same material that is used for prisoners clothing and refused to wear them. So they were then given masks constructed out of the same material used to make their blue shirts. They still won't wear them.

Many of the officers here can't wait for this place to be locked down. Never mind that it will be because of COVID-19 and people will likely lose their lives. But that's what we're dealing with. They do all they can to convince medical staff to be nasty towards us and are frequently successful at it. In my experience it seems that the nastiest medical personnel tend to migrate towards one another at certain facilities. This is one of them. However, there are some nice people who work in DOC but they are by far in the minority.

We have a new doctor and LPRN. They are doing the best that they can seeing that they inherited a mess. The last doctor had no problem lying to our faces often giving us the wrong diagnosis. I've been waiting for over 2 years for arch supports to relieve the pain in my feet and back. Instead, I have to rely on expensive Cortisone shots in my back which leaves me with the pain in my feet preventing me from getting proper exercise. Keep in mind that my condition is so severe that I tore a ligament in my foot just jogging. I told them that I'd be willing to pay for my own shoes with built-in arch supports. Now it looks like I'll have to take them to court. I do this with great reluctance but I've been suffering for years. Such is CDOC - backwards.

Please stay safe, take care of yourselves and each other ...you too fam.

Rich.