



FROM THE INSIDE

This letter was received by a friend recently. It originated from one of the N.S.W. Maximum Security prisons. For obvious reasons any material which could identify the author has been removed.

Dear Sir,

The former United States Ambassador George Kennan writes of earlier Soviet leaders: Quote: "These, it must be remembered, were all men who had renounced, as a matter of ideological conviction, the view that there were any absolute standards of personal morality to which one owed obedience. Usefulness to the cause of social transformation, as defined by themselves, was the supreme determinant of right and wrong in all human conduct including their own." (Unquote)

The rest of what the ambassador had to say was interesting as well, in the context of fair comment. However, what I should like to point out to you is that this description adequately fits the Prisons Department, Power without Glory, for what or what not is in the Public interest must be based on the New Testament, all Christ ever said was love one another. I am not a bible basher, I just maintain that it's worth preserving the guys under the sand of Tobruk and El-Alamein, say so.

Therefor I wish to bring to your attention the following complaint. Nobody outside the Prisons Departments can hear the complaints of prisoners because to complain is a *privilege* and not a right and

that is the crux of the situation. Jails are based on the Feudal system with the governor as lord and master and if he is corrupt (and let me point out that corruption is only by default of the apathetic who pave the way) all organised crime is to be found within a mile of the C.I.B. It is easy to assume by some that such crime is run by the C.I.B. but it is not my intention to attack Detectives (as opposed to the word 'police').

As an example of the power of the Feudal system at work, may I point to a case history of a Yugoslav sentenced to fourteen years for the manslaughter of his wife. At Goulburn Jail years ago the Child Welfare appeared with a document for him to sign; under the terms he was to turn his children over and was never allowed to see them again. He refused to sign, the Superintendent then had him locked in a cage for three months until the advent of the periodic visit from the Commissioner for Corrective Services who promptly had him freed and chastised the Supt. This poor unfortunate had been a model prisoner with poor English. Of course there was more to come. One day before he was due to go out on remission of sentence for good conduct they appeared again, same again, sign this they said, it's a document that releases you on licence for seven years plus the fact that you are never to see your children. No, he would not sign, so he was promptly returned to prison from the prison camp where he was. Now of course he was overdue for discharge. I personally got in touch with his Solicitor who made legal representation for him and was blandly told that remission of sentence was a privilege and could be withdrawn at any time, they of course neglected to state that it was withdrawn via a visiting Justice on a charge of misconduct. However as they don't like investigations they released him on the licence he refused to sign on the terms he didn't want and no-one to tell it to. His name was Miladin Tanaskovic, a nice guy, and an old man, a victim of heartless people.

More recently however is this. At Cessnock Jail selected prisoners are allowed out on day leave. I myself expect to go. The crunch is that one man has the power, and too much power. It is a fact of life that when it is a one man show, Favouritism, blatant favouritism occurs. No way known should any prison official allow any prisoner anywhere, No way. I know one guy allowed to travel damn near anywhere, now I don't care where they go, I do care who lets them go. It must be via a committee with no-one up top calling the shots or it's a farce. Anyone can make up a mock board of rubber stampers. I myself am serving a life sentence, I am on occasion allowed out, I too can be a menace to the public, I am delighted to go suits me fine one man lets me out, so far he is justified in his trust, I have no axe of envy. But lets say I have money power or influence, under existing laws I can have a ball. Having a ball is

dependent on what I can swing and the nature of the authority I deal with. Any decision to put a prisoner anywhere must be a board decision and must have absolute authority. No-one must be allowed to pull strings and to hell with people who have influence like Huxley who was treated like visiting Royalty. Let's face it, the man was sentenced to twenty years for Christs sake and was promptly given the red carpet treatment. The essence of what I have said can be obtained by this example. A prisoner here at Cessnock was complaining to a senior officer at missing out on a trip to somewhere or other and the senior officer replied that there was nothing he could do as the decision was up to the 'senior' over himself. Then to add weight he said, "look son, I know of a couple of child molesters going out, if it was up to me I would see they never get out!" Sir, as it is, I am not fond of this or that type of prisoner just as some people hate blacks, just about everyone has some bias or other. Now if a bigot has the power to dictate over others in a prison situation it may be that Catholics, Jews, blacks, New Australians, you name it, may be the pet peeve of the dictator, in the eyes of the victim he assumes the role of tyrant, rehabilitation is not on unless the victim has redress the entire concept is not on, if jails are a closed shop it is essential that jails be made of glass metaphorically speaking so that all may see what is going on.

Above all one must watch the money, far too many have grandiose titles that appear to be worthwhile, but in effect are only jobs for the boys. It is wicked to watch the waste of public funds on whims and fancies of ill-conceived notions, it is bullshit to treat first offenders with lavish spending, it only serves to give him the impression that Jail is a fun thing. However I can do nothing about it, nor will I waste time on it, until I am free. In the duration of my confinement of twenty years, the money spectrum has ranged from one extreme to another, now it's like kids in a candy shop. It is absurd to allow prisoners purchases of four or five dollars a week of groceries and once a month a similar amount on cosmetics, all on the taxpayer. One may purchase radios, batteries, and a shop full of food on funds that would be essential to his release. To earn funds in prisons is sound. But to spend it all, and expect to be carried again by prisoners aid or such like is absurd.

Shop keepers at Bathurst lost a million a year. Maddison's figures, not mine. He gives out these estimates when he tries to sell a jail to citizens who don't want it. Bathurst proved for all time that the ruling class threw all pretence at Justice out the window; no-one who has a brain does not know what he is up against; courts are merely instruments of the ruling class to repress. Bathurst is a monument and my crowning achievement, for I knew the time was ripe, that's why I went there. I was stunned at the chicanery, and the

treachery, and the lies, and the ferocity of the bloody-minded, it staggered the wildest ideas I ever had of the enemy and when I shook my head in disbelief and was prepared to give it a miss, along came Watergate. Who is to say for sure that god does not even the score and that Russia is not, for sure that is, part of the divine plan to make us wake up to ourselves, for even Russia has mellowed and will do even more so, to provide an attraction to those disgusted at the gluttony of Western Society. The ruling class in their gluttony and greed have overlooked the hidden cost of Bathurst, and that the legend, like Grafton, will deter trust. It will serve to disillusion and destroy and erode the structure from which they rule. Already the lies lay lightly on our shoulders for when all is said and done, all of us know that a day of reckoning will come and Bathurst serves to justify what needs to be done in the minds of those who suffered. All that it takes is for the magic moment to arrive when they say to themselves "NOW", Perhaps it will be in a thousand different ways by a thousand different people who all offer their unspoken pledge of allegiance "Cop that you bastards" or in answer to a plea for co-operation the silent reply of "get stuffed I'm going to get mine". The fact is that the state destroyed completely any illusions they held, or notions of right or wrong, and as the sentences drew to a close, released them to spread the word. I say the enemy has made a man-made cancer. Judge Goran's remarks on terrorism on the 21st April 1975 followed by defence trial lawyers asking that he be disqualified. Terrorism is here now, said the judge. I wonder why I am not terrified. I assume that it depends upon what one is terrified of. Goran appears to be terrified of any demonstration other than the festival of light.

May I say that I appreciate the fact that you have assisted me in the past and may I impose upon you to help me in the future, the fact is that I do need someone to help me otherwise I shall rot in here. I have done twenty years, I am to be reviewed for parole again next January (1976), if I get someone out there battling for me, perhaps this time I shall make it. I should like to remind you that I was only a nineteen year old when I came to prison and in all honesty I have more than paid. As God is my witness a policeman tried to execute me with three shots from his pistol at point blank range along with the words "you're fucking dead mate" and he missed. That was in Bay Street Botany 1972 on the 22nd July, from that moment on this vengeful public owe me. I was given six months for that escape so I'm square on that account, the attempted execution failed three times. His only words to me were "you're fucking dead mate" and then he fired. A lie detector would prove me right. But I don't get the chance, in this state it's not even legal unless the ruling class wish to use it, then they make laws just for them, and courts to exercise these laws, Justice is only for wealthy people. Anyway, I hope to meet you one day. Yours sincerely, Your friend,