

THIS HANDWRITTEN LETTER WAS RECEIVED BY CEML, TYPED UP BY CEML WITH LAST NAME WITHHELD FOR LACK OF CURRENT CONTACT WITH PRISONER.

January 8, 1996

Dear Friends,

I received your Fall 1995 issue of "Walkin' Steel" a few days ago and enjoyed it very much. I agree with everything you wrote concerning the conditions in both Marion and Florence. Yes, the food and conditions are better here than at Marion; the cells are newer and the air circulation is better. Also, the food is very good. These people are going to love us to death. One point that you didn't touch on in your article is the "progressiveness" of the "sentences" they are handing out like candy. The BOP seems to have a progressive disease similar to alcoholism when it comes to handing out "sentences." Of course they deny that the time they give you to complete in the control unit is a sentence, only an "administrative detention."

It doesn't matter what they call it, it still is a sentence. The reason they don't call it a sentence is because it would be denying us our due process rights under the 14th amendment so of course they change the name. The things that surprises me is the arbitrary manner in which they are handing out this time. Me, for example, got 60 months. I've talked to guys that were here in the 80's and they said that the longest sentence they gave out was 18 months. As time went on the unit managers-- to impress their superiors-- capriciously raised the sentences. While I was at Marion I witnessed the max. sentence raised to 72 months. I just talked to a guy who just arrived and he got 84 months! Now you know what I mean when I say they are loving us to death. Before you know it they are going to be giving people 10 years in control units without a trial.

Another thing that you don't mention in your article was the way they keep us from corresponding with friends and family on the streets. They send your mail back if you mention anybody who is incarcerated and if the people on the street should mention anything about anybody in jail they blackball them and you can't write to these people anymore.

To me those are the two worst things going on with this control unit. I'm in the process of learning my legal rights concerning both these matters and if I have a leg to stand on I'm going to file my first law suit.

Enclosed is \$3.00 for "Reflections on the Opening of USP Florence" and two copies of "Walkin' Steel."

Thank you very much for caring about us people in here. It really means a lot to know that NOT everybody out there thinks of us as animals and agrees with "The Contract On America."

Sincerely,  
Carlos (a prisoner at Florence)