



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Prisons

*U.S. Penitentiary*

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Marion, IL 62959

January 27, 1989

Mr. Steven Whitman  
Committee to End the Marion Lockdown  
343 S. Dearborn, Rm. 1607  
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Mr. Whitman:

Normally I would thank you for your correspondence, however, obviously no matter what is said in this letter, you have already pre-judged our response as being a "lie".

Staff at Marion have investigated your allegations of censorship of the document entitled, "Reflection on Five years of the Lockdown", and I found nothing to indicate these documents have been rejected or otherwise prevented from coming into the institution. Rather it appears these documents, if ever mailed, are most likely in the possession of the inmates to whom they were mailed.

As for your comments concerning Director Quinlan and myself being criticized and our expressions of hurt and being misjudged, it is prejudicial/abusive letters such as yours where preconceived judgments are arbitrarily made which cause such expressions. Although you have apparently passed judgment on the operation of this institution, claiming our operation is arbitrary and abusive, contrary to your opinion, those who have been entrusted by the citizens of this country, such as the courts and the citizens of the local community, obviously disagree with your views. Furthermore, if you base your opinions/beliefs on those persons who are incarcerated at this institution, I suggest you might want to look at their criminal/institution records prior to putting your faith completely on their statements.

In conclusion, I hope you consider this response as being an honest answer to what Marion Staff know about the whereabouts of the documents in question.

Sincerely,

Gary L. Henman  
Warden