

SKATZES/LUCASVILLE 5 SUPPORT BULLETIN NO. 21. June 1999

ACT II, SCENE 1: WEDNESDAY EVENING, APRIL 21

(Six days have gone by. A surrender has been negotiated. Act II begins with prisoners physically leaving the occupied cell block and walking one-by-one down center aisle, each accompanied by a guard.

There are two ways the surrender can be dramatized. The first is by showing the video tape of the surrender, available from the Support Committee, on a screen above the stage. The second and simpler method is to have a stream of prisoners and guards move down the aisle throughout the scene. The guards can be -- and were in reality -- recycled, each one, as he reaches the back of the theater, returning to the occupied cell block (that is, the stage) by a side aisle to accompany another prisoner.

The prisoners should be scruffy, unshaved, resigned, sullen. In just one case, that of George Skatzes, the film will show (or if there is no film, the dramatization should show) the prisoner accompanied by two guards, one on each side.

As the surrender proceeds, three men come to the front of the stage on either the L or R hand of the stream of surrendering prisoners. Two are black, one white. They are: Abdullah Siddique Hasan f.k.a. Carlos Sanders, slight, bespectacled imam of the Black Muslims; Anthony Lavelle, spokesperson for the Black Gangster Disciples; and Jason Robb of the Aryan Brotherhood, short, stocky, heavily tattooed.

The three men take turns reading the provisions of the surrender agreement they negotiated.)

ROBB: OK, listen up. Here are the 21 points that we negotiated.

(The three read in turn, each reading one point of agreement.)

(1) SOCF is committed to following all administrative rules of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction.

(2) Administrative discipline and criminal proceedings will be fairly and impartially administered without bias against individuals or groups.

- (3) All injured parties will receive prompt and complete medical care and follow-up.
- (4) The surrender will be witnessed by religious leaders and news media.
- (5) The Unit Management system will be reviewed with attempts to improve in areas requiring changes.
- (6) SOCF will contact the Federal Court for a review of the White v. Morris consent decree which requires integrated celling.
- (7) All close security inmates have already been transferred (on K-side) from SOPCF, L-side close inmates will be evaluated.
- (8) Procedures will be implemented to thoroughly review inmate files pertaining to early release matters and changes will be made where warranted.
- (9) Over 600 inmates have already been transferred from SOCF, greatly reducing previous population numbers.
- (10) Current policies regarding inappropriate supervision will be rigidly enforced.
- (11) Medical staffing levels will be reviewed to ensure compliance.
- (12) Attempts will be made to expedite current plans to install a new phone system.
- (13) We will work to evaluate and improve work and programmatic opportunities.
- (14) There will be no retaliating actions taken toward any inmate or groups of inmates or their property.
- (15) A complete review of all SOCF mail and visiting policies will be undertaken.
- (16) Transfers from SOCF are coordinated through the Bureau of

Classification. Efforts will be made to ensure prompt transfers of those inmates who meet eligibility requirements.

(17) Efforts will be undertaken to upgrade the channels of communication between employees and inmates involving "quality of life" issues.

(18) The current commissary pricing system will be reviewed.

(19) We will consult the Ohio Department of Health regarding any future tuberculosis testing.

(20) The Federal Bureau of Investigation will monitor processing and ensure that civil rights will be upheld.

(21) The Ohio State Department of Rehabilitation and Correction will consider on a case by case basis inter-state transfer for any inmate, if there is reasonable basis to believe that the Department is unable to provide a secure environment for that inmate. Any inmate denied a transfer, the Federal Bureau of Prisons will review their case.

(After the reading of the settlement agreement, the three prisoner spokespersons exit.

Attention -- and a spotlight, if there is one -- should shift abruptly to center stage, where two guards should be seen carrying a man on a stretcher out of the occupied cell block. This little group makes up the very end of the surrender procession.

When the stretcher reaches the back of the hall, it is met by two troopers of the Ohio State Highway Patrol, dressed in tan uniforms. The guards hold the stretcher in place as the OSHP troopers ask the wounded prisoner questions.)¹

¹The following dialogue is based on an interview with the prisoner on the night of the surrender (Tape #A-19, Interview #104, April 21, 1993, 11:58 P.M.), and on the affidavit of the prisoner, Dec. 30, 1998. The only "dramatic license" is that words spoken a few days later in an interview at the SOCF infirmary, and reported in the affidavit, have been added to words spoken on the night of the surrender, April 21.

TROOPER 1: We're going to show you some pictures.

PRISONER: OK.

TROOPER 2: Do you know these three?

PRISONER: Yeah.

TROOPER 2: Who are they?

PRISONER: George Skatzes, Hasan Sanders, and Lavelle.

TROOPER 1: We want you to tell us what you saw George Skatzes do.

PRISONER: Truthfully, I did not see George Skatzes do anything.

TROOPER 1: Who set fire to a mattress to keep you from leaving your cell?

PRISONER: Roger Snodgrass.

TROOPER 2: No, it has to be Big George.

PRISONER: You all don't care what I say, just as long as it's against one of these three, is that right?

TROOPER 2: That's right.

PRISONER: No matter if it's true or not?

TROOPER 1: We want Skatzes. We want Lavelle. We want Hasan. We know they were leaders. We want to burn their ass. We want to put them in the electric chair for murdering Officer Vallandingham.

End of Act II, Scene 1.

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