

Friday August 7th 2018

Suprise! Suprise! The lights came on this morning about 5am. I woke with guys holloring and yelling get up and stay in your cube. There were several officers going through the common areas searching for cell phones among other contraband. A little later they had us walk to the front and everyone was searched and told to go to the visitation room and wait. All inmates from all four units were in there while several officers were ramsacking our rooms searching for contraband. Contraband is anything that the BOP does not give you and things that you can not get at the commissary. The biggest problem is cell phones, alcohol, and cigarettes. You are not really to bring food back from the kitchen but everyone does. If they find milk in the coolers, they take the milk and the cooler. Sometime they take your apples and oranges.

At about 6:30am They started sending us to breakfast starting with A1 first then about every ten minutes they went to A2, B1, and B2. Then at about 8:15am the Captain came in and spoke and said they if we did not want to be at the easy camp then we he could send us to a low, among some other stuff, which nobody really cared.

He then said that A1 could go back to the unit but do not leave the unit. Then in about fifteen minutes he said that B1 could go back. Then in about another ten monutes he said the rest of us could go back to our units.

I as walked into our unit the trash cans were turned upside down and the trash on the floor. Anything that was loose was turned over. Most rooms were ransacked with the mattresses pulled out and the contents in the lockers was either on the floor or the beds. Broken eggs was on the floors, it was all a mess. They took a lot of contraband including food. I hear that they took a lot of shoes. A lot of guys have shoes that you can not get here, so they took them.

I know that there were two guys in out unit that was sent to the hole as they found a phone charger. Overall I heard that there were eight chargers and four cell phones found.

B1 got their TV's taken away for a week because of the phones found and no one knows who owns it so the punish the total unit. Luckily they did not search our room. Maybe that

we are just two men that would not do anything wrong. I think they know who to target.

This is not going to change anything as already most of the guys that had a phone taken away may already have another one. All the guys that do all the things like talking on their cell phones, making drug deals, getting drunk, getting high, smoking, stealing food and then selling it are getting better as criminals. Most of them will not be that good though as they will be back in here or worse in the future, its in their DNA.

One guy that I though for sure would be cleaned out was Jew. Of course that is not his real name but that is what I will use. Jew is a hustler he gets things from the outside and sells them in here for stamps or commissory. He is a real entrepreneur. You want beer, vodka, a Big Mac, a Whooper just let Jew know and you got it. Of course you pay for it. I know he had a trash bag full of candy from the outside, including Bit O Honey, M&M's, Reeses and more. He also had radios, head phones etc. Jew is a likable guy and I like him, I glad he wasn't involved because he goes home in about a month. But maybe he was not involved because the cops like him too. Hum! Jew sleeps all day and hustles all night. I will tell his story a little later in the book.

Its true that as a criminal in prison, the prison will make you a better criminal. Who needs to go to school, this is a school for stealing, lying, cursing and some of the teachers are the officers.

I keep telling my temporary friends that I do not lie, cheat or steal and did not curse much at home. These teachers are so good here that it does rub off. They are very consistent as they say M..... F..... about every other word.

I am sure that there is a lot of men and women that are in prison by association, in a conspiracy which they did not do anything wrong and maybe at the wrong place at the wrong time. The Federal Government DOJ can indict and put people in prison just because someone said that he or she did something or were with them on a crime. They do not need proof or evidence that you did commit a crime. They take someone elses word for it, hearsay. You can not do that in a state case, the jury or Judge has to prove that you are guilty by evidence. In the Federal DOJ you are Guilty Til' Proven Innocent (my

book) and you are never proven innocent. But once these people get here they might learn how to be a criminal and become one when they get out, I hope not. They call it the Federal Department of Corrections. What correcting.

Before I got here I thought that everyone in prison needed to be there. Now I know that is not the case for a lot of people. They may have made knowingly or unknowingly made a mistake and the Federal Prosecutor got them indicted guilty or not. Another feather and quota for them. The punishment is way to severe in most cases for first time non-violent so called crimes. I think most that you should get is one year and maybe some home confinement or something rather than warehoused in a camp, playing cards, pool, basketball, baseball, cornhole, watching TV, watching movies, reading, eating great food and taking naps everyday. What a life while your spouse or family struggles making ends meet. I forgot some inmates have to work a job in the BOP and get starting pay at twelve cents an hour.

There is a lot of talk about prison reform and sentencing reform and one bill that passed the house by a lot is up to get a vote in the Senate if Senator McConnell will bring it to the floor for a vote. President Trump said that he would sign it when it got to him. This bill has a lot of good things in it including any First Time non-violent inmate that is sixty years or older will get released after two thirds of their sentence served, and that includes me. You can find more about it at www.firststepact.org.

Roger W Upchurch
Reg # 12636-028
Federal Prison Camp
PO Box 6000
Ashland Ky 41105