

10-23-20

To them concerned,

I really want the public to know the sad realities of living as an inmate in Northern State Prison. Basically being in a small 10x8 space, with cell mate, for 23 or more hours per day. The problem is cell mates. Here there is no screening to check that two prospective cell mates are even near compatible.

Therefore most of the time they are NOT which automatically creates a problem. I am 68, a farmer/owner, ret union laborer, intelligent and fairly educated. I admit I'm not a person who matches up with many housed here and finding a compatible cell mate is difficult. There is great stress created living in such tight quarters with an incompatible stranger, as one can imagine. So much so it probably is the main cause I was put in the hospital for two days. A

second problem is the correction officers.

John Grisham in "The Racketeer" said, "Most CO's are former cops, deputies, or military types who didn't do well in those jobs and now work in prison. There are a few good ones but most are losers who are too stupid to realize they are losers."

I understand because of some bad inmates the CO job can be complicated. However, it is unfair to treat all inmates as they would one who was bad. A third problem is the

system itself. Our justice system needs a complete overhaul. Starting with the NJ Supreme Court and ending at the lowest law enforcement person.

This system keeps far too many people incarcerated who could and should be contributing rather than a burden to society. Many people were over convicted/prosecuted, or convicted of crimes that didn't exist.

Living in prison as an inmate IS 1. humiliating 2. heart breaking 3. boring 4. stressful 5. mind altering, and these are just a few issues. I find that we are existing not living in conditions much like animals in a zoo. At 68 I wonder if death is not better. If I can't be working my farm why has god kept me, I ask him alot.

Truly
Bill Kiepe