

12TH DISTRICT
STEWART J. GREENLEAF
27 NORTH YORK ROAD
WILLOW GROVE, PA 19090-3418
(215) 857-7700

SENATE POST OFFICE
THE STATE CAPITOL
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-0030
(717) 787-6598



Senate of Pennsylvania

COMMITTEES

JUDICIARY, CHAIRMAN
LAW AND JUSTICE, VICE CHAIRMAN
CONSUMER PROTECTION AND
PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE
EDUCATION
ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY
PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ON SENTENCING

May 11, 1990

Honorable Joseph D. Lehman
Acting Commissioner
Department of Corrections
2520 Lisburn Road
P.O. Box 598
Camp Hill, PA 17011

Dear Commissioner Lehman:

I am enclosing a letter and attachments from Thomas Martin, AP-8255, an inmate at the State Correctional Institution at Graterford. Mr. Martin has proposed to translate class room materials into braille for the Saint Lucy Day School, a school for visually impaired children.

Employees and volunteers at SCI Graterford have contacted my office and testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee recommending Mr. Martin as a person and endorsing his proposal. It is commendable that Mr. Martin is willing to provide this much needed service to the school. However, he is frustrated because he has been trying to get permission from prison officials since 1988 to purchase and operate the necessary equipment and, as I understand it, the officials have not given their approval.

Please review the enclosures and check into the status of Mr. Martin's proposal at SCI Graterford. Such a project would not only benefit Saint Lucy's but also would serve as a model for community service at other prisons.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

STEWART J. GREENLEAF

SJG/agm



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
P. O. BOX 598
CAMP HILL, PENNSYLVANIA 17001-0598
(717) 975-4860

OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONS

May 17, 1990

Honorable Stewart J. Greenleaf
Member, Senate of Pennsylvania
27 North York Road
Willow Grove, PA 19090-3419

RE: Thomas Martin, AF-8255
SCI Graterford

Dear Senator Greenleaf:

I have had an opportunity to review all the correspondence generated as a result of inmate Thomas Martin's proposal.

I would agree that the proposal appears to be a genuine effort towards self-rehabilitation, and I do endorse the concept. From operational and practical standpoints, I have some concerns.

Our current policies do not permit inmates to maintain electrical typewriters, or computers in their cells. Many of our older facilities particularly are incapable of handling additional electrical loads. Computers, because of their limitless versatility can be utilized for a myriad of purposes totally unrelated to the project in question. Double celling increases the fire loads in our cells. Excessive approved inmate property in our cells presents a real security and safety risk.

I have no reason to question Mr. Martin's integrity, however, to permit this usage of equipment in cell work would open the door to other similar requests that would be difficult to properly supervise.

Additionally, the sending and receiving of classroom materials and Braille computer disks creates the potential for contraband passage and security problems.

In summation, my concerns for fire, safety and security issues preclude consideration for this proposal at this time.

Sincerely,


Joseph D. Lehman
Acting Commissioner

JDL/ah
cc: Supt. Vaughn

12TH DISTRICT
STEWART J. GREENLEAF
27 NORTH YORK ROAD
WILLOW GROVE, PA 19090-3419
(215) 657-7700

SENATE POST OFFICE
THE STATE CAPITOL
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-0030
(717) 787-6599



Senate of Pennsylvania

COMMITTEES

JUDICIARY, CHAIRMAN
LAW AND JUSTICE, VICE CHAIRMAN
CONSUMER PROTECTION AND
PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE
EDUCATION
ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY
PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ON SENTENCING

June 5, 1990

Honorable Joseph D. Lehman
Acting Commissioner
Department of Corrections
2520 Lisburn Road
P.O. Box 598
Camp Hill, PA 17011

Dear Commissioner Lehman:

Thank you for your prompt response to my letter to you regarding the proposal by Thomas Martin, AF-8255, an inmate at SCI-Graterford, to translate classroom materials into braille for the Saint Lucy Day School. I forwarded your letter to Mr. Martin. In response, he sent me another letter (enclosed) addressing the issues raised in your letter.

I believe Mr. Martin makes some good points and request that you review his latest letter.

Your consideration of his request is appreciated.

Sincerely,

STEWART J. GREENLEAF

SJG/agm
Enclosure