

ever, to open the door to widespread, unlimited kind of correspondence would be inconsistent with our general pattern.

As I said before, if there is a Federal ombudsman, he should be able to communicate with inmates the same as the other officials I mentioned before.

Mr. KASS. And the system would give him full access to the prisoners' records?

Dr. ALEXANDER. Oh, yes. Well, this is true right now of those with whom they correspond.

Mr. KASS. Does the prisoner have full access to his records?

Dr. ALEXANDER. No, sir.

Mr. KASS. Does he have limited access; does he have any access?

Dr. ALEXANDER. He may have access to certain information which he wants to know, but he has no access directly to his file nor can he handle it. These files contain investigative reports, reports by judges, probation officers, confidential psychiatric records, and so on.

Mr. KASS. Thank you. I have no further questions.

Senator LONG. Mr. Waters?

Mr. WATERS. Doctor, I note that you list several people to whom the prisoners have direct communications, among them Congressmen and Senators, and certainly we know that the Congressmen and Senators do get a lot of mail. I didn't see lawyers on there. But I assume they are also permitted free access to lawyers?

Dr. ALEXANDER. Yes; to their attorney of record. This applies not only to correspondence, but also to confidential visits.

Mr. WATERS. Thank you.

Dr. ALEXANDER. But the prisoners' mailboxes which I was describing is not used for that purpose.

Mr. WATERS. Thank you.

Senator LONG. Doctor, do you notice a possible resentment among the prisoners against the system that is presently in force that they are having to communicate with people who investigate, people who are actually making the complaint against them? Is there some reason meant on that basis? Would they feel freer by writing the letter to the ombudsman and having him look at it rather than your legal department which is an employee of the group that they are complaining against?

Dr. ALEXANDER. I have had no feedback on that that would suggest that there is complaint against the system of making complaint.

Did you have something?

Mr. BARKIN. If I could point out one illustration, the legal aid program we have encompasses civil as well as criminal remedies, including complaints against the administrators. Our experience has been, especially with Leavenworth, which has been in existence longer than any other, that there is a very small number of complaints leveled against the administrator but they are free to make such complaints. As a matter of fact, we encourage this. We indicate that if there is a complaint against the administrator, the institution should bend over backward not to interfere, because in such cases there could be a ground for alleging that we have an interest in the complaint. The experience is pretty much that way. The legal aid program has this concept in mind—that once a law school program gets started, the Bureau of Prisons bows out completely other than providing the legal aid pro-