

gram with the necessary information. The prisoners do not go through us in any way. We don't talk to them, and the students are treated in every respect like counsel.

Senator LONG. That is really the ombudsman theory?

Dr. ALEXANDER. That is right.

Senator LONG. Along that line.

Dr. ALEXANDER. That is right.

Senator LONG. I have visited the institutions over the years and have been very impressed with the cordial relationships between the warden and prisoners. There appear to be very few feelings of resentment against the wardens. When I am on the visits, I always have been available and have talked to quite a number of them. I recall over the years that I have had one prisoner who has been critical of the warden or institution—only one, the “Bird Man”—that was a rather unusual exception, so I don't believe there is actually too much resentment all culminated in the theory of the ombudsman we are talking about.

Any other questions?

Dr. ALEXANDER. Well, in the sense, Mr. Chairman, of providing unrestrained and uninhibited communication, we have certainly tried to follow that principle.

Senator LONG. I doubt very much that you should permit unlimited correspondence and communication with the outside.

Mr. Fensterwald?

Mr. FENSTERWALD. Doctor, I would like to ask whether the independent investigatory power of an ombudsman would cause any difficulty? I understand the part about free access to Federal officials, but most of the Federal officials that the prisoner can communicate with, such as a Senator or Congressman, don't have any power to investigate. What they do is turn the complaint back over to you. Would it cause any trouble if an ombudsman or a representative of an ombudsman would have access to prison officials and physically have access to the prisoner imprisoned to investigate a complaint?

Dr. ALEXANDER. I don't see that it would cause any more problem than a staff member of the General Accounting Office coming right into our institution for an investigation or an FBI investigation a U.S. attorney's inquiry on a complaint of some sort. These types of investigations now regularly take place.

As a matter of fact, in prison administration we are quite accustomed to numbers of other agencies coming to the institution. I must confess that sometimes we think they are attracted to the prison because its kind of a unique, isolated sort of place that they are interested in. But in direct response to your question, assuming that he were a person of good judgment and circumspect in his work, I would see no problem.

Mr. FENSTERWALD. Thank you.

Senator LONG. Thank you, Doctor. Thank you, sir. We appreciate both of you being here. You have been very helpful to the committee.

The committee will stand in recess until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning, at which time we will meet in this room for a hearing on another subject.

(Whereupon, at 12:05 p.m., the hearing was recessed until 10 a.m. Wednesday, January 17, 1968.)