



County Corrections Gospel Mission

P.O. Box 1136 • Coatesville, PA 19320 • (215) 383-9378

May 14, 1986

Dear

"He is in the way of life that keepeth instruction: but he that
refuseth reproof erreth." - Proverbs 10:17

It is with a growing sense of appreciation I write to you. My visits with various Wardens have been most encouraging to me, and for the most part I have become more and more convinced of mature and respectable leadership in Pennsylvania. After all, could we really imagine any organization or system to stand that fails in its executive offices? What would we think of a denomination of churches that had inefficient and careless pastors or a Mediterranean Naval fleet that was under the direction of a novice?

Of those Wardens whom I have visited, I have been very impressed with their most cordial reception of me, and I can only hope for a maturing rapport in the vital days ahead and an opportunity to personally meet every Warden in Pennsylvania.

My greatest desire is to see churches creating and finding aftercare ministry and outreach into neighborhoods and lives now vitally neglected by the ever-widening gap of church and high-crime areas. Every county in Pennsylvania could gain by a revival of Home Missions concern, and your individual institutions and insights only mirror the tip of a most serious burden needing to be carried and acted upon by God's people.

As I stop to reflect on many of my Warden visits, I recall the following insights:

1. Although Wardens in Pennsylvania still include many veteran leaders of many years' experience, a growing trend of new leaders is occurring. C.O.'s and Deputies are moving into leadership and students of criminal law and justice are entering the arena of Corrections.

May 14, 1986
Page 2

2. Just as every arena of professionals has liberals, moderates and conservatives, so does the Warden's Association. This is great for the kind of honesty necessary to face the growing demands of Corrections.

3. Some Wardens welcome my presence when others clearly reject it. This is understood as well. It is exciting just to hear your concerns and doubts.

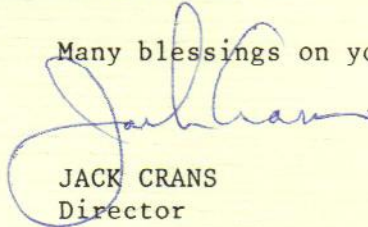
4. Many of you share a respected intimacy for your wives and children. As was said at your most recent Symposium: "Being a Warden is a family commitment!"

I want to hear from you if you ever just want to dialogue or question my intents or efforts. Over all, I am just thankful to God for each of you. I speak for thousands of Pennsylvanians -- "You are loved and appreciated!"

May God grant us a mutual trust, a continued willingness to agonize over similar troubled lives and the wisdom under God to touch Corrections and related lives and neighborhoods for the betterment of God's will for our personal world.

I am glad to be a small part in the vast and critical agenda of seeing men and women be restored to wholeness in our wonderful God!

Many blessings on you,



JACK CRANS
Director

JC/lsi