

First U. S. Narcotic Farm,
Lexington, Kentucky.

September 19, 1935.

Dr. W. L. Treadway, Asst. Surgeon General,
United States Public Health Service,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dr. Treadway:

Replying to your personal letter of September 16, 1935, concerning the possibility of making garments here on sub-contracts from the Bureau of Prisons, you are advised as follows concerning our situation.

We have not yet got in all the material necessary. For instance, we do not have any pattern paper, but this has been ordered. We do not have any white manila detail paper for drafting and designing, for which proposals have been sent out. Once before, no bids were received. When this material is received we could start doing something. I have discussed this whole matter with Dr. Ossenfort, Mr. Bierman and Mr. Brownstein, our tailor, and the conclusion is that we can begin operating as soon as the necessary material is received.

It is noted that Mr. Bennett will furnish us raw material and I am wondering whether this includes thread. We have ordered a small amount of thread but all of it has not been received. I, of course, assume that the raw material that Mr. Bennett will furnish includes all trimmings, such as lining, etc.

As to the type of clothing that we could manufacture, it is believed that we should start on rough types until a certain number of inmate personnel in our tailor shop are trained. We suggest clothing such as overalls, work shirts that are worn around institutions, etc. Later on after the personnel is trained we could start work on suits. If we get the material and thread, including the pattern paper, etc., we could start in a small way immediately and would in a short time be able to give some definite information as to just how much it will be possible to turn out. It would be inadvisable to give us a large order for suits right off as an unavoidable delay might cause irritation all around.

I am assuming that the material now on hand such as cloth trimmings, thread, etc. would not be used in making clothing for Mr. Bennett but definite information about this is desired. We, of course, want to begin the manufacture of uniforms for our Attendants as soon as material for them is received. Experience gained in this work will be useful when we begin to make suits for Mr. Bennett.

As to the pattern paper it might be advisable if you want us to start right away to have Mr. Bennett send us some along now. It is assumed that this should really be a part of our equipment and that we should furnish it, but with the way things have been coming in there is no telling how long before our regular supply will be received.

Very truly yours,

Lawrence Kolb,
Medical Director,
Medical Officer in Charge

LK:gp