

U. S. Narcotic Farm,  
Lexington, Kentucky.

January 15, 1936.

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

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

Sir:

Referring to your personal and confidential letter of January 13, 1936, enclosing a copy of a personal and confidential letter from Mr. E. J. Anslinger, Commissioner of Narcotics in Washington, concerning the smuggling of contraband into this institution, you are advised as follows:

The possible smuggling of contraband has been kept in mind here from the beginning and Mr. Junior our Chief Supervising Guardian was instructed when the place first opened to keep his eyes open both as to patients and to employees. He has done this and has, on my suggestion, worked in close cooperation with the narcotic agents in Lexington, giving them clues and consulting with them concerning means to apprehend possible smugglers.

Some time last September a Mrs. Harris, the wife of a patient here, was suspected of having visited the institution and on her way out to have given to one of our truck drivers, a patient, some narcotics. The truth of this was not confirmed but the narcotic agents were notified and they had Mrs. Harris under surveillance from that time on. She has not visited the station since September but she was recently arrested in Lexington as a suspect and my information is that nothing was found against her.

Rigsby plead guilty yesterday to a narcotic charge but it did not involve this hospital. For your special and confidential information the narcotic agents listened in by means of a tapped wire to all telephone conversations to Mr. Rigsby at his house for a period of three weeks and not once during this time was anything mentioned concerning narcotics for this place.

We have had under observation several of our guard force but nothing has come of it as yet. Our suspicions or observations now center upon one man, an Attendant. The narcotic agents and police are also watching him in Lexington. We are not saying anything to him here so as to avoid putting him on his guard. This action is taken with the hope that if he is guilty he will more readily expose himself to detection either by us or by the narcotic agents and the police of Lexington.

I can say very positively that very little if any narcotics are being smuggled into this institution. This is also the opinion of the narcotic agents in Lexington. Our Chief Supervising Guardian had a conversation with the District Agent yesterday and was told by him that he gravely doubted whether anything was coming in. Several months ago I was personally told by this supervisor, Mr. Cunningham, that all the reports he could get was that this was one of the tightest places for such activities in the country. It is, of course, possible that a small amount of narcotics have come in here and it is almost inevitable that sooner or later some will come in. It should be remembered in this connection that we are working a large number of inmates on the outside and one of these may eventually arrange through the medium of a discharged inmate to have narcotics passed over the fence at some designated place. We believe, however, that this has not yet been done.

There has been some cannabis indica (marihuana) collected on the Farm and brought into the institution. We have been vigilant about this, knowing that the plant grows here, and have discovered about four violators.

I will immediately notify you if anything comes of our investigation of the Attendant suspect.

Respectfully,

Lawrence Kolb,  
Medical Director,  
Medical Officer in Charge.

LK:gp