



IN REPLYING  
ADDRESS THE SURGEON GENERAL  
U. S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE  
AND REFER TO

# TREASURY DEPARTMENT

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

WASHINGTON

January 3, 1936.

PERSONAL

Medical Officer in Charge,  
United States Narcotic Farm,  
Lexington, Kentucky.

Sir:

We are being pushed to accept additional prisoners at Lexington. As you know, the Act which authorized the institution provides that reasonable accommodations shall be made for prisoners first. At the present time, we have approximately 586 prisoners and 131 voluntary cases, which seems somewhat disproportionate.

I note your recent letter recommending the desirability of limiting the number of prisoners, but public policies demand that we accept more Federal prisoners at the earliest date possible. I do not want to appear arbitrary in this matter, but I am sure that you will understand the Bureau's position, which might be awkward in the event we do not accept more transfers from the Annex.

For some time we have maintained a tuberculosis ward in connection with the hospital at the Annex. This ward accommodates the semi-ambulant and bed-ridden. During the past several months, several deaths have occurred among these prisoners, and the Bureau of Prisons has become somewhat restive about our not accepting transfers more liberally. I imagine there will be somewhere in the neighborhood of from twenty to thirty tuberculous patients that could be transferred from the Annex. Please advise by return mail how many more prisoners you could reasonably absorb within the next thirty days.

By direction of the Surgeon General.

Respectfully,

Assistant Surgeon General,  
Division of Mental Hygiene.

WLF:JT