

Hello All:

29 August, 2009

Yesterday was the most informative class I have had in BOP; and that is not saying very much of its quality.

This is one of the required BOP pre-release classes. It was repeated about 20 times that every district and each halfway house has their own set of rules and methods of enforcement. That means that all I tell you here is subject to change.

The second chance act passed by Congress is definitely being interpreted very differently by Halfway House and probation than by us, or at least me.

It was plainly stated that no one in this region has gotten more than 6 months of halfway house except one man who was dying with cancer and the medical costs made it cheaper for BOP to send him home via halfway house. Once at the halfway house he became a medical ward to the state. In halfway house people are expected to provide their own medical.

This would mean that my expected halfway house date will be October, 2010 unless some Congressman gets through to BOP that they really can save money by expanding home confinement and halfway house.

The women who run halfway houses in Oakland and San Francisco were here making the presentation. None of the stuff they warned of causing people to violate and be returned to prison is stuff I do anyway. 95% of the people they see are drug related fellows.

Perhaps the good news is that the way they use second chance, my date for being eligible for home confinement is the same day as my halfway house eligibility meaning there will be no reason for me to spend much time there.

There were 2 useful pieces of information, or 3. Work opportunity tax credit can pay a company up to 2400 for hiring me for a year. Then there is a federal bond program that means we are bondable to protect an employer. Likely the best of all was the one stop centers set up in the cities to help us with getting training and jobs.

Possibly the worst news is that under federal probation and halfway house, so at least 2 years after release it is difficult to establish your own business and have it approved.

yes; that can be different from one area and even different officers in the same office sometimes consider individuals differently.

None of this changes my desire to be gone from here as soon as possible but may have some different influences on what I do and when with the rest of my life and times.

I have the documents prepared and will submit today for the maximum extent of the second chance act and go through that exhaustion of process.

BOP did explain yesterday that the Congress has cut their budget seriously and there will have to be some more adjustments made. The philosophy of Probation is being changed in the direction of case management and assistance instead of just law enforcement. That should mean that they are working to have people succeed instead of just counting the scores of those who fail. Increased success should increase use of those re-entry facilities and programs; and it saves BOP lots of dollars. Halfway house is almost self supporting by comparison. Inside we cost on average over 40,000; and in camp around 30,000 but halfway house is under 7,000 and home confinement is under 2,000 even with monitoring.

Both the Phoenix halfway houses are down near County Hospital near where we lived when we first arrived in Phoenix in 1972.

I am aware that some people in Phoenix stay in halfway house a very short time; one was 6 hours when assigned 3 months because he already had a job set up and home to go to. Yes; he was a 30s married man whose wife was loyal; and had good church support. The ones I know who went there as Social Security eligible were 6 days and 9 days so that is a possibility; though I expect to work at something.

I am not tired nor do I wish to retire.

My writing and most of the typing is done; it is now at 230 pages and just a few need retyped which I hope to finish this weekend. I will have 2 jobs beginning in 2 weeks to keep me occupied better.

Love to all