

## FOR PUBLICATION

### Slavery in Wisconsin

By Giuseppe DiPiazza

State Senator Lena Taylor plans to reintroduce a change to the Wisconsin Constitution, which would ban slavery in the state, when the Wisconsin Legislature reconvenes in January.

The Wisconsin Department of Corrections told the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel inmates "are not required to work," except "as a penalty for violating prison rules." This, in itself, stinks of Jim Crowism. When law enforcement, in the post Reconstruction South, arrested African Americans for violating "laws" to put them to work as free labor.

But the prisons do in fact force prisoners to work for free even when they don't violate "prison rules" making them slaves. The Division of Adult Institutions created a policy prohibiting prisoners from getting paid for more than forty hours of work. However, when short on laborers, prison officials will regularly force prisoners, who have already reached their forty hour pay limit, to work for free. Refusing to do so places prisoners in violation of the prison rule against refusing "to perform a work assignment."

The penalty for which can land a prisoner in solitary confinement for as much as ninety days. A strange rule and penalty to have if prisoners are not forced to work, as the DOC claims.

Slavery is utilized within Wisconsin's prison system, as permitted in the Wisconsin and U.S. Constitution. State Senator Lena Taylor would make this practice illegal if her proposed change to the Wisconsin Constitution is passed.

#### Editors Note

Prisoners who have received a conduct report for refusing to work overtime (i.e. over forty hours), should send a copy of their conduct report to the Senator. Only for refusing to work overtime, and no other forms of refusing to work should be sent.

Senator Lena Taylor

State Capitol

(Please provide the rest of Senator Lena Taylor's address here.)

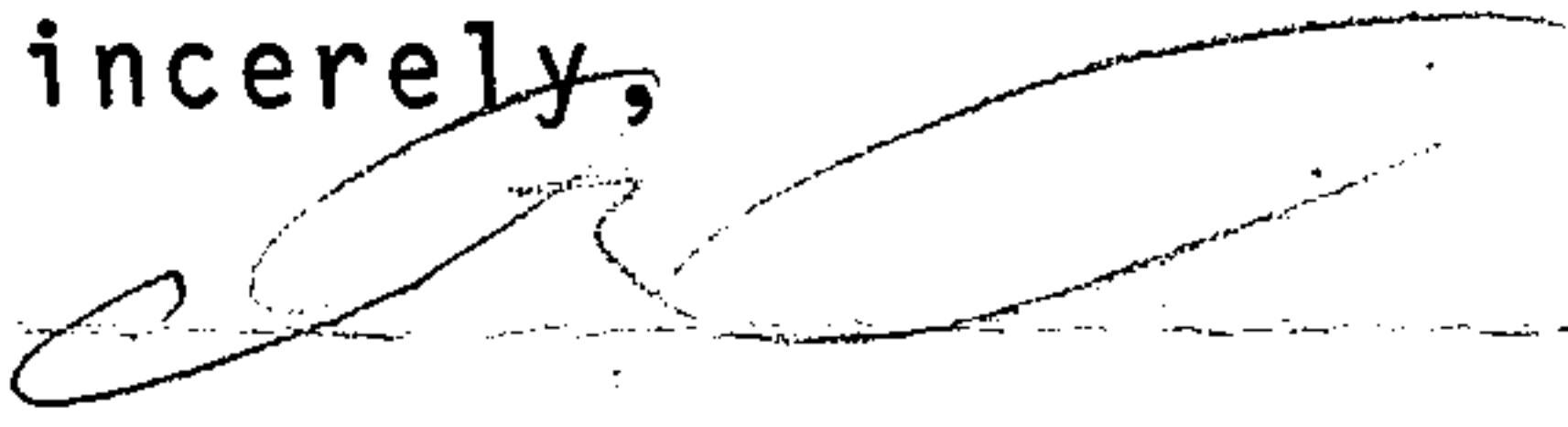
Attn: Peg Swan  
Forum For Understanding Prisons  
29631 Wild Rose Drive  
Blue River, WI 53518

Dear Ms Swan:

Enclosed is an article for publication in the FFUP newsletter.  
As you'll see I will need you to include Senator Taylor's  
full address, as I do not have it. Please publish it under  
my pen name, if you decide to do so.

Enclosed is also a donation to be used to help in the production  
and mailing of the newsletter.

Sincerely,



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dominic Marak 00152875  
Green Bay Correctional Institution  
P.O. Box 19033  
Green Bay, WI 54307-9033