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SUBJECT: Response To Your June 15, 2020 Posted Letter at SCI:

It would be remiss of me if I did not respond to your June 15, 2020 letter with the caption **Eligible Individuals in the Division of Adult Institutions:** Although your letter expressed good rhetoric in theory, it is nothing but a ruse with stratagem which deceives prisoners and the public. I will now elaborate further in this regard.

I have an astronomical amount of knowledge to share with others and the people who tell the story the best are the ones like myself, who have lived in the trenches of prison life, and experienced it first hand, and have found ways to control their lives. As of today, July 6, 2020, I have served a total of 49 years of incarceration since 1969. I have six years left to serve before reaching my Mandatory Release Date of July 6, 2026.

On my 59 year governing sentence I became parole eligible 19 years ago in 2001 and to date I have served over twice the amount of time that prisoners serves for capital murder, which is 34 years to date (54%), and counting, which is far more than the legislature's intent of 25% of my sentence. I have maintained medium custody over the past 20 years. My last major conduct report on record was 31 years ago back in 1989. My exemplary conduct does not lie. Since 1989 I have completed every program in the prison system (some two and three times), earning 94 Certificates. I am the epitome of change.

In 2001 and 2003 I received 48-month parole deferments, and since 2009, I have received 13 consecutive 12-month parole defers, with no end in sight. Thus, I have signed a "waiver" of parole consideration in "silent protest against a "broken" Wisconsin prison system." Thus, the last three lines of your letter makes it abundantly clear that, my Parole Commissioners will continue to uphold their past parole decision ways with parole defers, perhaps up to the time where I have only three months left to mandatory release date of July 6, 2026.

So How Much Time Is Enough To Serve ? From 1969 at age 26, losing my 30s, 40s, 50s, 60s, 70s, with no end in sight. I reached criminal menopause by 2001. It is essential that I employ and practice my newly learned skills outside the artificial institutional setting. After 49 years of prison life, adjustment to the non-prison life-style is an essential part of treatment which can't be accomplished while I remain in a prison setting.

In 2014, after 25 years in the Kansas prison system, and with such an impeccable amount of accomplishments behind me I decided that it was the appropriate time to return to Wisconsin since they left that decision up to me. Over a four year period I had a savings account of \$19,656.19 from my minimum-wage employment. I had the mind-set that once I got back in the Wisconsin prison system I would quickly advance down through the system to minimum security custody with some work release and be released shortly thereafter. The following depicts my thoughts and expectations that I had mapped-out for my future once I got back to Wisconsin and at the Wisconsin Dodge (DCI) Correctional Institution in Waupun, Wisconsin.

This was a new phase in my long lonely journey. I was presently on the threshold of a kaleidoscope of emotional and physical excitement as I prepared myself to enter the real world after 43 years of incarceration (in 2014), so I eagerly anticipated every aspect of my life that now awaits me. The thoughts of dreams and plans finally being fulfilled while no longer feeling trapped in that vicious deviate cycle of instability. It was fantastic and satisfying. It was wonderful ! I tried to savor and absorb every moment. I can recall hoping that all of my senses would continuously react with maximum efficiency so as not to deprive me of any of the excitement that awaits me. I intended to maintain a continuing diary for at least two years beginning on the day of release. This will be an attempt not so much to put down my activities of my day, but more to capture my thoughts and feelings so that I could follow my adjustment.

I felt I was presently capable of a smooth and rapid psychological and physical adaptation to my anticipated new life. I have given much thought over the past years to my personal psychology, my goals, and philosophy of life and my association with my friends and family. I felt ready with few problems, however, there still exist that unknown element of 43 years of incarceration with some mental anxiety. My readjustment will be real. The expectations of new relationships with a wonderful family that is in a manner few people have so vividly lived. I was also well aware that my family as well as society has changed greatly, but I still anticipated the challenge.

I felt at that time that because that experience had played such an unknown on my personal psyche it would be interesting and worthwhile to follow my readjustment. The forthcoming experience is almost unique and certainly unusual. In years to come I wanted to review that experience. My mind is so forgetful particularly in regards to thoughts and feelings. Thus a diary. In the event my experiences fades to much I had already put down an autobiographical sketch of my long journey. This epic journey is enough to have a large impact on a man's life and his thoughts.

I am a Life-Long Learning Guy. We have all heard what life is suppose to offer us: endless opportunity, the fulfillment of our dreams, and a chance to live each day in a way that brings happiness and success. Most of us want and need at least a good job and career, and a good family life, and reasonable financial security. We expect that from life. We know deep inside that we deserve our fair share and we have a right to attain it. To me, for a long time, that kind of life sounded like an impractical dream, a cardboard box filled up with daydreams and wishes. To live a life of hope, promise, expectation, and achievements was to live the life of someone who lived in the pages of a book. After my recovery in the Kansas system, and after learning the far-reaching extremities of my potential, at the time I returned to Wisconsin, I had believed that such a future was possible for me to live.

When I arrived back in Wisconsin in 2014, I soon realized how delusional I was in my belief that I would be rewarded for my extraordinary achievements while I was in the Kansas prison system over the previous 25 years. To my dismay where I had foresee any praise and reward, I found instead rejection and indifference. I was demoralized and felt chastised for successfully completing all of my short and long term goads, and this was an awful maturing experience that has revealed myself as a victim of my own myths.

I have been "WAREHOUSED" at SCI for 6 years with another 6 years to serve. Here I sit in limbo while I continue to fall through the cracks of a "broken" prison system while my full potential is impeded as I remain struck in the nightmare of "MASS-INCARCERATION" as a parole eligible and parole ready individual. The key to immortality is first to live a life worth living. Each morning I wake up with a sense of foreboding. Then I pray to the Supreme Being asking for the best mind to get through the injustice, and then I would give thanks each night for making it through the day.

On April 3, 1994, then Governor Thompson issued his "Policy Directive" essentially acted to abolish all prisoners under the "Old Law" an opportunity for discretionary parole. This was done in sub rosa and circumvented the U.S. Constitution and the very laws his own legal counsel advised him that he would be violating if he enacted his unlawful Policy Directive. In other words rehabilitation or positive growth or economic burden to taxpayers be damned.

There's no disputing that Governor Thompson changed the parole practices in Wisconsin and without promulgating rule of law. Then Governor Scott Walker followed this unlawful policy directive, and more specifically, Walker had abandon his mission to rehabilitate. Governor Tony Evers stated that *he believes in forgiveness and the power of redemption. "People who have taken responsibility for their mistakes and who have worked to improve their lives and communities deserves a second chance."* Unquote Governor Tony Evers. Therefore in the best interest of justice this matter deserves the full attention of the public.

I know that journalist are a powerful resource. Over the past years I have been inundated in the arduous task to collectively gather 26 PACKETS that are presented in chronological order with an INDEX for easy reference (see attached copy of INDEX) that depict 1007 total pages. This was a most difficult endeavor coupled with cost of over \$500.00 for copy work, and accessories and postage cost. I have been told by lawyers and renown authors that my life journey would make a good movie or book, and I must agree.

At this time I am seeking out a potential News Media journalist who would be interested in doing an in-depth cover story (documentary) on my epic 49 years of incarceration. I have to write to silence the pain. Such a terrible, grim time. I am the unhappiest of unhappy people. Everything I held dear to me was destroyed when I returned back into the Wisconsin prison system in 2014. If I had remain in the Kansas prison system I would have a savings account of over \$60,000 and counting with my minimum-wage employment there, in oppose to my present dire situation with no income at SCI and depletion of my current savings over the next six years whereas I will become a homeless war veteran upon my release on 7/6/26.

If you could only know how hard it is to want something so badly, to work so hard for it, and then just be denied it all at the finish line. Although even in the darkest moments there's something that can make us smile, however, "there's more and always more worries." Good is always suppose to follow bad, and so I have to ask, where is the good ???

My whole life is swelling up in me, all 77 years of it. All of my emotions are piling up into one heap of dry leaves, and June 2020 is like fuel pouring on that heap, and it is growing, growing, just one spark and it will erupt, flames will burst high in the sky. So let my heart, brain, mind, body be cremated by the prison system, and let there only be a conflagration and desire for burning. Have I lost my mind ? My soul is very sad !

I am a 77 year old man looking back on his life's journey in the midst of this confusion and all I can do is weep. I am frustrated and confused, and my feelings and emotions will continue to multiply as I look at a future that may never be mine. Each day going insane with no chance to be free and die with my love ones at last one day. Living this moment with the heart filled with grief, while looking for tomorrow that is distancing from me.

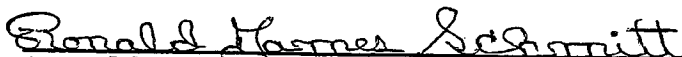
PLEASE DO NOT LET MY SUCCESS STORY GO TO MY GRAVE WITH ME

After recovery at age 77, there is no greater journey left for me than the one that leads me home. I need my family and they need me, and I know that I would be an asset to them. I wish to go out into society to make all of my dreams come true. I've had this fantasy. I find I am so excited, I can barely sit still or hold a thought in my head. I think it is a excitement only a free man can feel, a free man at the start of a journey who's conclusion is uncertain. I hope and pray to experience the quality of life that my positive changes I have made can now give me. I hope to make it to South Carolina with my sister Judy to meet my eight nieces and eight nephews who have grown-up to adults and have children of their own, and give them all a big hug before I die.

This is my goal, this is my wish, and this is my daily prayer.

I pray that God will enlighten the minds of those who control my fate today.

Most Sincerely,


Ronald James Schmitt