

As before, thank you much, Mrs. Nora Krinitsky, for granting me the opportunity to express myself. To The Michigan Humanities Collaboratory I wish much success for you in all of your undertakings.

In response to your questions :

- As far as racial segregation in prisons, especially the federal system its extremely BAD! Because of the dynamics (geographical) in the federal system such as: Being shipped across country to facilities, which means you're in someones else's "territory", Draconian sentencing - which increases stress levels and hopelessness -, international criminals - Different nationalities and ethnic groups.

You have people from all over the world in one designated facility and because of the 'prison culture' most people rely on protection from others so they form cars (gangs, clicks etc) These cars consist of either: Religion, gang Affiliation, geographics and ultimately RACE.

Although in some cases their are alliances formed by different cars and in other cases these cars are always potential enemies. The only optimum alignment is RACE. So whether the brothers from Michigan and Louisiana are at odds with each other, if it's

An issue with another race those brothers have a then biological bond because the opposing race isn't going to differentiate the two by which state they're from. It doesn't matter to them because you're black. So it's war.

I never been in a race riot but I was in three standoffs with us "blacks" and another group but because of the "Prison Politics" it was decided that a war wasn't necessary (thank God). People congregate and have designated spots on the yard based off of race. Table seating in the chow hall or T.V.'s in the unit are based off of race.

It's pathetic and it's sad that we as "men" still hold on to the "structures" that guys created 40 years ago instead of trail-blazing standards that's more inclusive and simply reflecting the progressive changes that society is making.

During this Covid experience, the whole institution was on lock down and all the inmates were locked in their cells. Then when departments began to open mostly the white inmates were allowed out of their cells to work with the exception of one black inmate. Which means we were burdened with the mental stress of being locked in a cell during a global pandemic while the whites enjoyed the luxury of roaming freely.

- As of Wayne City Jail I must admit that the lack of structure on behalf of the jail is what makes the time spent there tolerable. There's mostly pre-trial inmates in county jails so at that point you're considered "innocent until proven guilty" so you have more "civilian privileges" there opposed to being in a prison where you've been sent to go because of a conviction. Hence: The 13th Amendment so in prison all of your "rights" are revoked.

Wayne City's old side was completely unsanitized. Purely filthy! The food wasn't edible for a dog's standards with an all junk food commissary that makes you question whether commissary was in business to keep the medical department booming with business, Realistically speaking, I remember the bed bugs vividly which I gained a new found respect for. Never have I in my life considered sleeping while standing; using my tied up blanket tied to the jail bars to keep me upright. Lol

- Detroit's policing shaped my views on authority in general. I'm forever cynical when it comes to the person who deems themselves ethically sound enough to govern someone else. They were the manifested experience of the thoughts of people on Capitol Hill and in Lansing. Emphasizing the enforcer in law enforcement. What I was accustomed to view as normal, although inconvenient, I know now to be illegal extortion tactics used as a patrolling parameter to keep the inhabitants within under constant tension while simultaneously assuring the

neighboring suburbs that the poor minorities will remain in their place. Pred lining.

I remember an officer harrassing me and a couple of my friends and after they stopped and frisked us (Not finding anything) they harrassed an individual driving by. They found a gun on the driver and lied to him saying that my friends and I put them on to him. That lie almost came to some gun play in the neighborhood. Ssh

I've known officers who carry two guns. One assigned to them by the force and the other, a "throw away", in case they have to kill someone illegally.

I never experienced it but I've known of many of people who've had drugs and guns planted on them. Imagine ~ you're a law abiding citizen but you naturally run from the police when you see them. Out of fear that the officer may want to reach a quota today at your expense, he gets a pat on the back and you get 5-20!

Whats most scary to me isn't the wrongful imprisonment or the unwarranted beatings but the sadistic and twisted capacity of wickedness capable of being administered by a demon with a badge who's aware of it's impunity. The sinister expressions and amusement of pleasure upon the face of someone who's authorized to torture you under law just as long as he can create a narrative of vague "probable cause" is mentally cringing and is reminiscent of the 'good ole days' when the town of white families ate food and socialized during public lynchings of falsely accused

blacks.

- The emotional and psychological harm that the carceral system has caused my family and I is a continuum of defectiveness that's immeasurable because events have the potential to metamorph into outcomes that can't be projected by the finite mind.

To give an answer would be superficial of me because my response is limited to my comprehension which could possibly be a disservice to Truth. So according to my portion of understanding one of the harms is the side effects of Loneliness.

I wouldn't wish loneliness on an enemy of mine. Because that type of pain is beneath the surface and resides on the Soul Plane. It disturbs the balance of essence in an individual creating a pendulum of peace to chaos.

Another harm that affects families and communities for generations due to incarceration is how a child of incarcerated parent is more likely than not to come to prison themselves which then makes it cultural to become convicts. Comparable to a child of college graduates who would more than likely themselves be determined to graduate college.

One harm that doesn't get much attention is how incarceration has an inverse effect on families such

as the case of both my cellmate and I. Because we both were incarcerated relatively young, (23) years old we missed the prime years of finding a partner, settling down, getting married and starting a family. Which is devastating to a man who values family, strong bonds and who truly anticipates the day when he can spoil his beautiful daughter and mentor his son.

So the impact is huge from this angle when we were not producing and properly raising quality character in children because us men are stuck with stiff sentences from crimes we committed at ages when neurologist suggest our brains weren't fully developed.

The social unrest you see is from the public losing trust in a system that promised to provide and protect the interest of us ALL. Some of those people out there know us in here. They know us from personal experience and they know our character and values as well as our mistakes. And they wonder "How could this system completely debase, devalue then discard that young person like that"?

They know us from picking up trash in front of their homes. From running store errands out of respect for the elderly. Or just giving a warm smile and a wave of acknowledgment. They also notice once we're gone how the successive generation lose guidance due to us

being behind bars.

Another dynamic that evaded my memory is how a 'dependent condition' is structurally imposed on an inmate. This condition isn't fully effective on the inmates who's fortunate enough to maintain control of his finances and assets. But for the overwhelming majority of us inmates whose finances were stolen from either directly "family" or "friends"; taken by the government or just simply exhausted. We now rely on the governments issue of physiological obligations: food, clothing, shelter etc. and anything additional, we place that burden on those that love & care for us. Obviously creating an enabling tendency which I'll call 'dependent conditioning' and the natural process of it is to degenerate the manhood of the individual. So its no coincidence to see inmates entitled to a television truck in a public room. Or to see some state claim to a table, chair or most pathetic; the 'spot' where the chair is to be positioned. Yes, people have been murdered for these trivial possessions trucks not theirs but the governments.

Now I didn't keep the copy of our last correspondence so I don't know if I reiterated some examples or stories. If so, excuse the redundancy but certain things were omitted for that particular reason: fear that I mentioned it once before.

I hope my experiences and perspectives could be of good use to your cause because I do truly appreciate the movement. As of now, August 13th, I'm scheduled to go to the halfway house so I may be gone by the time I receive your response. I have all of the necessary information and contacts so by God you'll be hearing from me soon.

Thank You,
James J. Carter Jr.