

"I DO NOT FIND IT DIFFICULT TO SURVIVE HERE"

A letter from Ted Kaczynski on his imprisonment

Thank you for your letter of September 8. I don't know what press reports may have said about the ADX, but you should bear in mind that press reports very often are wildly inaccurate - as I learned from press reports about my own case.

I think it is inhuman to keep people locked up under any conditions, but beyond the mere fact of imprisonment I don't feel that the conditions here are bad as you seem to believe. I'll describe them briefly; but it must be understood that this description applies only to the part of the prison where the high-profile (that is, the famous) prisoners are kept. I know nothing about the rest of the prison.

The food is usually good, the prison is run in an orderly way and is kept reasonably clean and quiet. The warden is very conscientious, and he and other officials of the prison make the rounds of the cells frequently to ask prisoners if they have any questions or complaints.

My cell is about 2.4 meters by 3.6 meters in dimensions (this is only a guess, as I have no means of measuring) and contains a small concrete table, a concrete stool, a toilet, sink, shower stall, bed, and television set. I do not use the television set except to get the time or instructions about prison routine. My cell has one window to the outdoors. It cannot be opened. The dimensions of the pane are about 10 or 12 centimeters horizontally by 90 or 100 centimeters vertically. The view is not inspiring. The window looks onto a concrete exercise yard filled with wire-mesh cages, each about 3 meters by 5 meters. Into each cage a prisoner is put for the daily exercise period.

I am more fortunate in that I am usually allowed to exercise in an indoor recreation area, the dimensions of which I estimate at

about 4.6 by 8.2 meters, or about 15 by 27 feet. This is big enough for running. I run about 7½ kilometers a day and spend the rest of the daily exercise time walking at a fast pace. The exercise period is given five times a week, Monday through Friday, and lasts, I think, between one and two hours. I have probably an average of about seven or eight hours of exercise each week. The rest of the time I am kept locked in my cell, as are the other prisoners.

For about two months after I was brought here, whenever I was not in my cell or in the recreation area (for example, when I was taken for a medical examination or a meeting with an attorney), my hands were closely chained to my waist and my feet were chained also, and I was kept chained that way throughout the medical examination or the attorney meeting. Now, however, when I am taken from my cell, my hands are placed in handcuffs behind my back but are not chained to my waist, and no chains are put on my feet. Also, when I am put in a visiting booth for a meeting with an attorney the handcuffs are removed. In the booth I am separated from the attorney by a pane of (presumably bullet-proof) glass.

There are two types of guards here, whom I call the "meanies" and the "normals". The meanies take an aggressive attitude with the prisoners; they tend to bark orders rather than speaking in an ordinary tone of voice. The normals behave and speak like normal people. I assume that the meanies

are trained to behave as they do in order to intimidate the prisoners and make them submissive.

When I was first brought here I was greeted by meanies, and for the first two months the guards I was in contact with included both meanies and normals. After the first couple of months I was, with the other high-profile prisoners, moved to a different row of cells, and where I am kept now all of the guards with whom I have regular contact are normals. In fact most of them are nice, friendly people. A few are women.

Prisoners are allowed to have books on almost any subject, and are allowed to send and receive mail. All letters that are sent or received, except correspondence with attorneys, are opened and read by the prison staff.

In social visits, that is, in visits by persons other than attorneys, the prisoner is kept separated from the visitor by a pane of glass that has no openings, and he talks with the visitor by means of a telephone. The prisoner is allowed social visits only by family members and persons with whom he had friendship prior to incarceration. I am estranged from my family (for obvious reasons) and had no close friends prior to incarceration. The few friends I did have live in Lincoln, Montana, and do not have the financial resources to visit me in Colorado. Thus, in practice, I am allowed no visitors other than attorneys. I have appealed this decision, but I am not optimistic about the outcome of the appeal.

I do not find it difficult to survive here. My life in the mountains of Montana accustomed me to solitude. But for some

prisoners not accustomed to solitude these conditions may be very difficult.

It is true that I have written a book, and I think I will be able to find a publisher for it.

I thank you for your offer of books or other assistance. At the moment I have no need to make use of your offer, as many

people have offered me books. However, I will keep your offer in mind and may take advantage of it in the future. I appreciate very much your interest in my case and the fact that you have taken the trouble to write to me.

Sincerely yours,

Theodore J. Kaczynski