

THE LIES THEY TELL:

The rampant & systematic abuse of power.

I'm currently incarcerated at Jessup Correctional Institution in Maryland. After being transferred from Virginia via an Interstate Compact Transfer, my focus was on settling down, establishing a routine and resolving my property issue with Virginia Department of Corruption. The VADOC claimed that some of my property was "lost" during the shipping process. Interestingly, the "lost" property, consisted of all my legal documents. The documents are for an ongoing civil class action lawsuit against the VADOC. Coincidence, I think not.

The Case Manager, Ms. Thompson, had been assisting me in connecting with Virginia's Interstate Compact Transfer Liaison, Kyle Rosch, to discuss the reimbursement of my "lost" property. However, in order to reach the case manager, I must submit a written request or ask the guard in charge of the tier to call Case Management. The latter is much faster. The guards who typically worked in the building I was housed in were familiar with this "lost" property issue because it has remained unresolved for some time. In my experiences, when an issue remains unresolved too long, it will most likely get worse before it gets better.

The morning of August 16th, 2022 began as another ordinary day. Same routine, same faces except for one, C.O. Chaiya Brown. That morning, CO Brown was in charge & was being assisted by another female guard named, Ogunbanwo. CO Ogunbanwo, was normally in charge of the tier and has assisted me many times before. Upon the conclusion of in-pod recreation, I briefly returned to my assigned cell and grabbed some documents regarding my property, and exited the cell. I proceeded to walk towards CO Ogunbanwo for her assistance in contacting Kyle Rosch.

As we were talking, I felt a presence behind me. I turned around to find Chaiya Brown, standing there. I looked at her, but continued to talk to Ms. Ogunbanwo. Brown interrupted and asked that, I speak to her regarding my issue since she was in charge. "It's much easier if Ms. Ogunbanwo assisted me as she was already familiar with my situation. Explaining from the start about the transfer and "lost" property would take an hour" was my response. "Well, I'm the tier officer, you have to talk to me, she's just assisting me," said Ms. Brown. I ignored her and continued speaking to Ms. Ogunbanwo. Most people who work in prisons are attracted to power and control. There is a truism that power attracts the worst and corrupts the best. Nothing irritates a powermonger more than the inability to control a prisoner.

My refusal to speak to Ms. Brown, led her to begin yelling loudly & demanding, I speak to her. As a crowd of on-lookers began to form, the louder she got. I began walking away from her, she followed me, demanding, I speak to her. At that point, Guard Ogunbanwo and a male guard, K. Bonds, stepped between me and Brown. Brown became even more animated and started yelling “What’s up. I ain’t scared of you. I ain’t the rest of them! What are you going to do?” My response was, merely, to laugh. I certainly wouldn’t take the bait and engage. I was in disbelief. I couldn’t believe that this guard whom I’ve never seen before, actually wanted to fight, because I refused to talk to her. Her behavior could have possibly led people to assume, I owed her child support. Guard, K Bonds, grabbed her and instructed her to go to the control center and I returned to my assigned cell.

Later in the afternoon, at precisely 1:46 PM, several guards came to the cell and asked me to “cuff up”, I was going to segregation. I asked for the reason, though I had a premonition it was due to that earlier incident. I allowed them to place the handcuffs on me and was escorted to medical then to segregation unit.

As I read the disciplinary infraction, I couldn’t help but laugh. Nothing she stated on that report was an accurate description of the events which transpired or lack thereof. She spewed lies such as “Mukuria began rushing towards this officer and pointing in my face in a very aggressive and angry tone yelling “I’m going to kill you, I’m gonna smoke you, you’re going to die bitch! I, officer Brown retreated to the control center.” These are lies they tell.

I’ve been incarcerated for 17 years. I know, for a fact when a prisoner utters such words as “I’ll kill you” to a guard, there’s no retracting them and it’s an instant trip to segregation. Consequently, I know the power of words, therefore there’s just certain words I don’t throw around casually. In the confrontations, I’ve engaged in with guards in Virginia, it was a response to their abuse and I never made any threats, I simply responded.

On this fabricated disciplinary report, she claimed that I walked towards her pointing a finger in her face in a very aggressive and angry tone & that she retreated. This is prison. There are cameras everywhere. Her report and what actually transpired are two very different narratives. If objectively and unbiasedly reviewed, the footage would contradict Brown’s own words and expose her for being the instigator. It could also show another guard having to hold her back and instructing her to head to the control center. She never retreated, as she claims. Furthermore, the two guards who were both present stated that I never threatened to kill or cause any physical harm to Guard Brown.

What this incident indicated to me is that this is someone who has made such false claims on lots of other prisoners and has never been held accountable. Monique Shaw, the Shift Supervisor, could have reviewed this matter, prior to signing off on an obvious fabricated, over exaggerated disciplinary infraction. Two of her guards who were present stated on the incident report that no such threats were made to CO Brown. If one guard is making claims a prisoner threatened her yet, two other guards, dispute such claims. It should call for further investigation. If Monique Shaw was operating within the realm of logic and common sense, she would have paused and looked into that matter. But common sense isn't always so common. Brown didn't merely fabricate and falsify state documents, but under the penalty of perjury, she knowingly perjured herself and Monique Shaw is an accomplice.

While in Segregation, I encountered several other prisoners, who also had a similar fabricated disciplinary infraction of allegedly threatening to kill a female guard. Apparently, the male guards are never threatened. One would think violence against female guards by prisoners is a serious systematic issue here at J.C.I. Actually, it is not. The only violence that is systematic, unfortunately, is amongst the prisoners. What this boils down to is the power dynamic. CO's are doing something to somebody not because it is right, fair or just, but simply because they have the power to do so. I believe the right term for that is abuse of power. This isn't the first, nor the last time I've encountered such.

Should history be our guide, it shows that when people have power over other people, they will inevitably abuse it. Despite, the myriad of tactics thrown my way in 17 years by prisoncrats, none have been as auspicious as they intended. I'm a solid, tactical thinker, with an unbreakable spirit and uncompromising will. I will never be silenced or turn a blind eye to any of the abuses nor would I ever hesitate to make necessary sacrifices for a larger cause. Abuse of power inside these prisons must be exposed.

DARE TO STRUGGLE.

DARE TO WIN.

ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE.

Revolutionary Intercommunal Black Panther Party.

Minister of Labor - Comrade Pitt.

Instagram: @pittpanther_art

**Comrade Pitt was exonerated of all charges & has been released back to the General Population.