

April 16, 1977

REGIONAL DEPUTY SECRETARIES  
INSTITUTIONAL SUPERINTENDENTS

Helene Kohlgemuth  
Secretary of Public Welfare

On a recent visit to a Department of Public Welfare institution for the mentally retarded, I observed the incarceration of residents in locked cages and in large pens.

I am not aware that such conditions currently exist elsewhere in our institutions. In the event that any of you have been countenancing the use of such degrading and de-humanizing methods, this is to notify you that effective immediately the use of cages or pens for the incarceration of residents is expressly prohibited.

cc: Mr. Goldman  
Mr. Beach ✓  
Mr. Leopold  
Mr. Thompson  
Mr. Ball

HW:EBC:ju

cc: Mr. Carskadon  
File