

Donald Anderson, Sec'y
Convicts Anonymous
Box 41
Michigan City, Indiana

November 15, 1965

Senator Birch E. Bayh Jr.
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Bayh:

The members of the Convicts Anonymous Group here at the Indiana State Prison humbly seek your assistance to help preserve our country and the men who are fighting in Viet Nam for the American creed. We wish to help.

How as convicts can we help, and how can you be of assistance? First we would like to introduce you to our group. You will probably say, what is Convicts Anonymous.

The main goals we are striving for, is to find ourselves, and show a significant offer in the universal effort to better mankind, and we want Society to really know us. Many of us are presently possessed with ignorance, yet, deep within our souls, we want terribly to love and understand our fellowmen. Our group is designated to curtail crimes, to help the youngsters who's now trodding in the regretful footsteps of our past. We are bound together in brotherhood, succeeded by an undying desire to re-produce our lives, and become dedicated Americans. Like yourself, whose heart bleeds endless for a better world for all to live in. This and more is Convicts Anonymous.

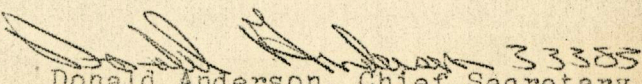
The assistance we are seeking is for someone to help us further a project we read about in the Indianapolis Star. (The article was written by Staff Writer of the Star, Mr. Harrison Ullman.) We wrote Mr. Ullman seeking information concerning the Bleed-In project that the I.U. Students were partaking in. Mr. Ullman revealed to us in his reply that you have supported this program whole heartedly, and suggested we solicit your advice and guidance.

It is sometimes hard for parts of Society to accept the fact that convicts are human, with compassion and feelings for our brothers of the human race. It is so, that our voices go unheard when we say, "We want to help," but with our determination and undying thirst for a place in Society, we will succeed with the help of God, and men such as yourself.

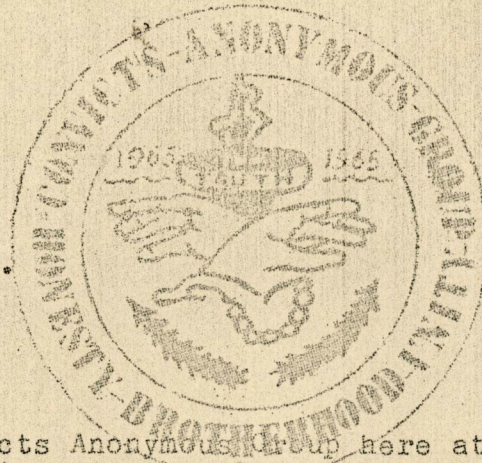
Any help that you can extend us toward furthering the Bleed-In project (Behind Prison walls) will be sincerely appreciated by the over (300) members of Convicts Anonymous, for all of us who are physically able would be more than glad to assist our brothers in Viet Nam.

Until such time that we hear from you, we beg to remain,

"Our Brothers Keeper"


Donald Anderson, Chief Secretary
Convicts Anonymous Group #33383

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Dear Mr. Anderson:

Senator Bayh has been touring in Latin America and your letter of November 15 was referred to me in his absence.

Knowing that the Senator will want to assist you in your effort to donate blood for our fighting men in Vietnam, we ~~we~~ have begun making inquiries of the appropriate state authorities to learn if the members of your organization (and any others who may wish to participate) may be permitted to do so.

If such permission may be granted, the Senator will strive to make ^{the necessary} arrangements with the Red Cross and with the Department of Defense .

Although whole blood is not now required by our troops in Vietnam, derivatives of the blood which ward off ~~infection~~ disease and shock is needed and is being sent. ~~These~~ These derivatives were made from the blood donated by Indiana University students and were shipped directly to Vietnam.

I found your letter extremely moving. It is my hope that the Senator will be able to assist you in your desire and, if so, that people throughout Indiana will learn of your willingness to help.

etc. etc. steve lesher