

EMPLOYEES STATEMENT OF GRIEVANCE:

On July 27, 2005 I requested access to New Jersey State Prison, as the majority representative of employees serving in the title of Correction Lieutenant, to address a very serious safety problem. The issue of concern was that of the removal of fire safety equipment that was previously available to our members. This request was submitted to the Governor's Office of Employee Relations, as is agreed upon in the collective bargaining agreement, and has been past practice. As also agreed upon in the collective bargaining agreement, the Office of Employee Relations shall decide on approval and any conditions to be imposed, and requests shall not be unreasonably denied.

In a letter from Mr. John P. Nuttall, the Department of Corrections attempts to "gag" this majority representative during their access to New Jersey State Prison. Specifically, the Department of Corrections directed that we could not discuss the issue of fire safety equipment during our tour. The Department of Corrections has exceeded its authority in setting conditions for our visit. The authority to impose conditions on our visit rests with the Governor's Office of Employee Relations. The collective bargaining agreement provides that any member of the collective negotiation unit may orally present and discuss a complaint with his/her immediate supervisor on an informal basis. The Department of Corrections is restricting this process. Also, there has been no reasonable explanation given as to why we cannot informally discuss this safety issue with the immediate supervisor at New Jersey State Prison.

TO CORRECT MY GRIEVANCE THE FOLLOWING SHOULD BE DONE:

The Department of Corrections shall not attempt to limit the topics which the majority representative feels are necessary for discussion.

The Department of Corrections shall not set conditions on the majority representative during access to premises of the State. This will be left to the Governor's Office of Employee Relations.

The majority representative shall be free to informally discuss and attempt to resolve issues of concern through persons and/or channels of their choosing.