PONTE: QUESTIONS & POINTS TO RAISE

About two dozen families in Maine want to know what the heck is going on with the Interstate transfer business. LD 690 is designed to break through the wall of indifference that Commissioner Theriault has built up during the Baldacci administration

The ISC system’s Maine division is dysfunctional. It is hostile and entirely unhelpful toward the families of the exiled inmates, and toward the inmates themselves. It metes out transfers as punishment, and issues decrees that various inmates shall never be returned to Maine or even to New England.

This is not appropriate power for a minor bureaucrat like Associate Commissioner Theriault to wield. Many of the two dozen Mainers who have been transferred out of state by Commissioner Wayne Theriault and his predecessor feel that they have been placed in exile.

• No return date.

• No reply from Commissioner Theriault to requests for return coming from prisoners or family.

This regardless of injuries & attacks & reasonable pleas to return. When people's situations meet the standard for return, they SHOULD BE returned. Instead the prisoners and familes get these oracular statements from Theriault and his like at the various prisons of exile.

Deane Brown is instructive: shipped out for speaking up about corrupt ex-warden. 6 years later: isn’t he punished enough? Haven’t his family and friends punished enough?

Steve Schoff – 2006 prevented a bloodbath in maine state prison by Gary Watland - Ungreateful Merrill and Magnusson have made his life hell since then.

There are many others and their stories and those of their familes are dreadful.

Interstate Compact on Corrections has spawned its own organization, with its own budget – in to which Maine pays $20,000 yearly. It has a vested interest in perpetuating itself by keeping as many prisoners interstate as possible and to obtain revenue from the prisoners if possible.

It is now contemplating selling“inmate data” regardless of the prisoners’ interests. Contrast that with your deputy commissioner endlessly claiming that privacy concerns keep her from describing the mess that Mr. Thibault has made of interstate transfers.

Please make your Department’s interstate compact division’s ineffective, prisoner-hostile, family-hostile bureaucrat Wayne Theriault accountable and user-friendly.

Regarding Deputy Commissioner Denise Lord, she is at the heart of the Good Old Boys club web who has ruled your agency for the last 15 years. She’s very good at what she does, but what she does is the old school and needs to go. She is hands down the worst remaining holdover of the bad old days. She is wearing too many contradictory hats, As a result people are suffering.

New York’s Complete Transfer. To that end, the Interstate compact organization organization is considering the proposed plane for Complete Transfer, the transfer of probationers to their resident receiving states would include court jurisdiction, along with the transfer of supervision and enforcement authority, including violation and re-sentencing. This council does not support

this proposal.

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The state of Mainer prisoners whose return clearly falls within the established norm

The reason for the bill is that the ISC system’s Maine division is dysfunctional

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Yes, I lay this dreadful state of affairs entirely at the hands of two people; the “Commissioner” for interstate compact affairs Wayne Theriault, whose faults I referred to above, and to

Associate Commissioner Denise Lord, who is hands down the worst remaining holdover of the bad old days.

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Lord has been here since Angus King was in office. **She is wearing all the hats, not you**: Since the time of Angus King, Lord has been in charge of your department’s “long-range planning and systems improvement, program development and evaluation, research and analysis of correctional programs and alternatives, state and federal legislative affairs, the department's technology and management information systems, victims services, public relations and external affairs. She co-chairs the Board of Corrections Working Group.

She has now accumulated so much power, consolidated so many DOC job titles, established so many connections, has cut so many intra-agency deals and been so instrumental in spinning to the press all the questionable or even corrupt activities that occurred during your predecessors’ commissionership, that…

**It is HER Dept of Corrections. Not yours**. *Her Department* won’t reform. Her department won’t end the use of exile as punishment. Her department won’t find the budget or the manpower to do what YOU want to do, unless it is what she and her old boys want to find it. The result to date has been a department of corrections with bad morale on both sides of the bars, dozens of Mainers transferred off forever, unfriendly and evasive and unhelpful public interaction.

She reports directly to you, Commissioner. **Unless you trim her sails** by “accepting her resignation” (She could be a great vice president for CCA, or an ACA leader) or by limiting her to where she can do only good, not harm, you are not going to able to accomplish a single reform that she does not approve of. And Lord does not approve of reform. She is like one of those Hindu goddesses with endless arms, plugging hole after hole in the dike that keeps the old boy’s network sludge from coming out.

Please make your Department’s interstate compact division’s ineffective, prisoner-hostile, family-hostile bureaucrat Wayne Theriault accountable and user-friendly.

As goes Associate Commissioner Denise Lord, against she at the heart of the Good Old Boys club web who has ruled your agency for the last 15 years. She’s very good at what she does, but what she does is the old school and needs to go.