



U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

JUL 23 1990

REGISTERED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED



Honorable Ray Mabus
Governor of Mississippi
State Capitol Building
Jackson, Mississippi 39201

Re: Investigation of Boswell Retardation
Center, Sanitorium, Mississippi

Dear Governor Mabus:

I am writing to inform you of our intention to investigate conditions at Boswell Retardation Center (BRC), Sanitorium, Mississippi. This investigation is authorized by, and will be conducted pursuant to, the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act, 42 U.S.C. Section 1997, et seq.

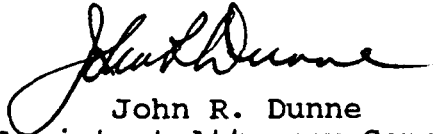
The purpose of the investigation will be to determine whether there exist any violations of the statutory and federal constitutional rights of BRC residents. The investigation will focus on, but not necessarily be limited to, allegations related to an inadequate number of professional and direct care staff, abuse and neglect of residents, misuse and overuse of restraints, inadequate recordkeeping practices, and the failure to provide treatment sufficient to avoid undue risks to personal safety and unreasonable bodily restraint. The initiation of this investigation in no way evidences any prejudgment on our part that patient federal rights have been violated. If any violations are found, we look forward to conferring with you and your staff concerning corrective actions that might be appropriate.

As a means of commencing this investigation, I wish to propose an initial meeting in the near future between our attorneys and representatives of your office. It has been our experience that such a preliminary conference can substantially expedite the process. We also wish to arrange for our attorneys,

consultants, and perhaps agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation to visit the Boswell Retardation Center. We shall be in touch with your staff to work out the specifics of our meeting and later visits. The attorney assigned to this matter is David Deutsch, (202) 514-6270.

Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



John R. Dunne
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

cc: Honorable Mike Moore
Attorney General
State of Mississippi

Mr. Albert Randel Hendrix
Executive Director
Mississippi Department of
Mental Health

George Phillip, Esquire
United States Attorney

Dr. Paul Cotton
Director
Boswell Retardation Center