



JC-DC-001-020

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United States Court of Appeals

FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CIRCUIT

No. 75-1350

LEONARD CAMPBELL, ET AL.

v.

ANDERSON McGRUDER, Superintendent, Detention
Services, ET AL., APPELLANTS

No. 75-2273

LEONARD CAMPBELL, ET AL.

v.

ANDERSON McGRUDER, Superintendent, Detention
Services, ET AL., APPELLANTS

Appeals from the United States District Court
for the District of Columbia

(D.C. Civil 1462-71)

Argued May 26, 1976

Decided March 30, 1978

Judgment entered
this date



Bills of costs must be filed within 14 days after entry of judgment. The court looks with disfavor upon motions to file bills of costs out of time.

*largely affirming District court's judgment
for inmates.*

SYLLABUS BY THE COURT

Plaintiffs, a class consisting of pretrial detainees incarcerated at the District of Columbia Jail, brought an action in 1971 seeking declaratory and injunctive relief against allegedly unconstitutional conditions at that facility. On March 21 and November 5, 1975, and on May 24, 1976, the District Court enjoined conditions of confinement at the Jail which it held violated plaintiffs' constitutional rights. Defendants, District of Columbia officials in charge of administering the Jail, appeal. *Held:*

1. The principles of equity, comity, federalism and abstention do not prevent a federal court from issuing relief under the circumstances of this case.

2. Whether the conditions of confinement violate plaintiffs' constitutional rights must be determined by balancing plaintiffs' liberty interests, rooted in their presumption of innocence, against the government's interest in controlling crime and managing the institution of pretrial detention in an administratively feasible manner. All conditions of confinement will be closely examined. Conditions that are likely to impair a pretrial detainee's physical or mental health must be justified by a compelling administrative necessity. So must conditions that impede a detainee's preparation of his defense (apart from the fact of confinement itself) or that are so harsh or intolerable as to induce a pretrial detainee to plead guilty, or that damage a detainee's appearance or mental alertness at trial. The duration of pretrial confinement is relevant to this balancing, but the court will not engage in balancing if the conditions of confinement are otherwise violative of the Constitution.

3. The District of Columbia Jail was overcrowded, and this overcrowding violated plaintiffs' constitutional

rights. During the pendency of this appeal, however, the District opened a new detention facility. Although the opening of this new facility does not moot out the case, the orders of the District Court enjoining overcrowding and placing numerical limits on the total number of inmates that could be housed at the various Jail facilities are not affirmed. In light of the weighty local governmental interests involved, the record is remanded to the District Court for further findings concerning the propriety of relief.

4. The order of the District Court requiring defendants to provide clean clothing to plaintiffs is affirmed.

5. Some form of recreation is necessary to prevent mental or physical harm to pretrial detainees. As for the District Court's order requiring one hour of outdoor recreation per day for each detainee, the record is remanded for further findings concerning the quality, duration and location of the necessary recreation.

6. The District Court's order requiring defendants to establish a classification system for pretrial detainees is affirmed. The District Court's order is not interpreted as requiring contact visits.

7. As for the District Court's order requiring the medical examination of all food handlers at the Jail, the record is remanded for clarification as to its legal and factual foundation.

8. The District Court's order requiring defendants to provide psychiatric examinations for detainees whose unusual behavior suggests possible mental illness within 24 hours of the discovery of such behavior is affirmed. Also affirmed is the requirement that any detainee found to be mentally ill be transferred to a hospital with appropriate facilities within 48 hours of such a finding.

9. The District Court's order requiring procedures in the use of physical restraints is affirmed.