

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
JUNE 12, 1962

FROM THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN BOB DOLE  
244 HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

Congressman Bob Dole (R-Kansas) today released the text of a letter received yesterday from Miss Mary K. Jones, along with a copy of a letter forwarded to Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman. The letters are as follows:

June 8, 1962

Hon. Robert Dole  
House of Representatives  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Congressman Dole:

I am enclosing a copy of a letter which I have sent to the Hon. Orville L. Freeman, Secretary of Agriculture, concerning my case.

Any assistance that you may be able to give me in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Mary Kimbrough Jones

Mary Kimbrough Jones

Enclosure

1201 S. Court House Rd.  
Arlington 4, Va.

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June 8, 1962

Hon. Orville L. Freeman  
Secretary of Agriculture  
U. S. Department of Agriculture  
14th & Independence Avenue, S. W.  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Freeman:

Over one month has elapsed since my release from D.C. General Hospital where I was kept in the psychiatric ward for 12 days. My commitment to D.C. General Hospital was arranged by Dr. Lee Buchanan, an employee of the office of Personnel, Office of the Secretary, United States Department of Agriculture, through a procedure which is extremely dangerous to personal liberties and rights. This procedure involved calling the Metropolitan Police, when this measure was not in the least advisable or called for.

During my stay in D. C. General Hospital I was subjected to physical and psychological indignities and my physical health was impaired. Due to the measures used in sending me to the hospital, there is a record in the District Court which if not expunged will always be harmful to my reputation. I have been forced to prove to the world that I am free of any mental disability. I have been interviewed by a psychiatrist and a psychoanalyst, both of whom have certified me to be free of mental disturbance. However, having to prove that I am sane has been a great expense to me both in effort and in money.

Why hasn't the Department of Agriculture made some effort to alleviate my plight since they are responsible for this trouble?

I have furnished interview statements to the FBI and the Senate Investigators, appeared for more than one hour before television cameras, and have been interviewed by more than a dozen reporters. Certainly the Department of Agriculture now has sufficient information to show that I am not mentally disturbed and never have been.

If you have any doubts at all concerning my mental status despite the foregoing facts I will agree to another psychiatric examination by any psychiatrist mutually agreeable to the Department of Agriculture and to me. If this is done, you can have no further question.

More



June 12, 1962 (cont)

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I have been informed that you are a member of the American Civil Liberties Union and the Americans for Democratic Action, and that you have a reputation for being a liberal. You are also a leader in the employment of handicapped persons, including those who have had emotional problems. Certainly I am not in the position of someone who has had emotional problems, but is it asking too much that the Department clear me of this handicap by recognizing its error in so branding me.

I am sure with your background of organizations and movements assuring civil liberties you will find it right to assist me in overcoming the infringement of my civil liberties. This, even in the face of admitting that the Department of Agriculture was wrong in handling my situation the way they did. The failure on your part to take prompt action will amount to disavowal of the things you profess to stand for. I am not angry at anyone for the way I was treated, but remedial action is urgently needed.

It would be appreciated if you will issue a public statement clearing me of the stigma, and recommend that restitution be granted me for the error.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Mary Kimbrough Jones

Mary Kimbrough Jones

1201 S. Court House Rd.  
Arlington 4, Va.

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Since it appears that Miss Jones was not suffering from any mental disability as indicated from reports by her personal physician, Dr. Harold Heiges, a recent report dated June 2 from Dr. Frank S. Caprio, along with her release from D.C. General Hospital on May 7, it does appear that any and all records relating to the commitment of Miss Jones, including records in the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the D.C. General Hospital, <sup>and</sup> the District Court, should be expunged.

Dole concluded that he has been in contact with Hon. Emanuel Celler, Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, and Hon. John L. McMillan, Chairman of the House Committee on the District of Columbia, concerning the confinement of Miss Jones and possible changes in the District Code. Dole said, "In my opinion, the important question is not the possible connection Miss Jones may have had with the Billie Sol Estes case, but whether or not any of her rights as a citizen were abridged."

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