

DWO.63/1133

2nd March, 1966.

JRT:JP

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER (G.W.)RETТА DIXON HOME

Mr. Paddamore advised that the main problems at Retta Dixon are:

(1) The children tend to form up into groups which he calls "gangs" and conceives of these in terms of the traditional American gang behaviour. He tries to stamp them out.

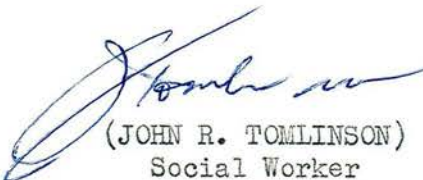
I feel that Mr. Paddamore by so doing is upsetting a normal *pre* - adolescent and early *post* puberty behaviour.

(2) Note Passing - Mr. Paddamore was perturbed by the fact that the children in the cottages often passed notes to one another and this disturbed the cottage parents.

This passing of notes may have many underlying meanings but it would seem indicative of action by cottage parents not to give the children the opportunity to talk among themselves without supervision. To attempt to stamp out note passing would lead to more defiant behaviour.

(3) Mr. Paddamore said that most of the older girls in the home want to go to Palmerston Home.

I feel that many of the cottage parents and other staff at Retta Dixon have not sufficient training or insight to have the complete charge of children and respectfully suggest some action is initiated to enable closer supervision of all children in Retta Dixon and particularly State Children.

  
(JOHN R. TOMLINSON)  
Social Worker