

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Subject: Endeavour Training Farm

160

MEMORANDUM TO THE DIRECTOR

RECORD NUMBER

SG

MINUTE

While I was at Endeavour Training Farm on Thursday, 13th November, 1975 I was informed in a conversation with the acting Head Teacher, Mr. Barry Doherty of certain happenings at Endeavour Training Farm which it appears had been discussed in class.

A subsequent discussion with Captain Clark and reports to me from a number of youths over the last week and a half has enabled me to ascertain information about the episode as follows.

Reports indicate that at some time during the week ending 1st November, 1975 that a few of the youths at Endeavour Training Farm found a way to break into the canteen via a loose board. It is reported that boys in ones and twos had broken into the canteen after lights out and then left again, successfully concealing the fact. By Saturday night the method of entry had become general knowledge amongst the boys and a large number broke in. After consuming some drinks and sweets, they returned to the dormitory where it seems that some sexual bi-play was indulged in. Also some smoking and horse-play took place involving a number of the boys, some of whom were still in bed, being awakened and encouraged to take part.

The boys named regarding the sexual activities were: REDACTED, HD, GP, REDACTED, REDACTED, REDACTED, REDACTED, REDACTED and REDACTED. The majority of boys at Endeavour Training Farm had broken into the canteen. During this time the only officer on the property was apparently Captain Clark and his wife, and I understand that he slept during the events. There had been a serious staff shortage during the previous few weeks and Captain Clark had been working long hours, as two of the staff employed by the Salvation Army had recently left, and Envoy Lloyd was on holidays.

It appears that these events went unnoticed until one of the boys REDACTED reported what had happened to Captain Clark. It appears that Captain Clark was very angry and was physically aggressive towards the boys.

REDACTED while waiting for the escort officer on Monday, 17th November, 1975 told Miss Doyle and

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myself that Captain Clark had punched him in the stomach six times as well as given him four hits on the behind with a leather strap. It appears that all the boys involved in sexual activity on the previous Saturday night were punched between two and six times in the stomach as well as given up to four hits on the behind with a leather strap. A number of boys including REDACTED were reported to have been grabbed by the hair and thrown to the ground and had their heads held to the floor, and banged on the floor while Captain Clark was still holding their hair. Some of the boys were reported to have been kicked by Captain Clark whilst on the ground.

From reports some of the boys were dealt with in the presence of other boys without another officer being present.

After discussing the matter with my Supervisor, I brought up the matter during routine discussions on Thursday, 20th November, 1975. I mentioned in particular the report by REDACTED made in the office to Miss Doyle. Captain Clark made no attempt to deny that he had hit some of the boys in the stomach but tried to make little of it and called it his "Captain Bligh Act". Captain Clark seemed to be very agitated about the sexual play that had taken place and said that he felt that the school was partly responsible. The previous week some of the boys asked questions about sexual matters during a lesson. Mr. Doherty had, at the time discussed these questions with me and his manner of dealing with them. I recall from this discussion, that I felt that Mr. Doherty seemed to be dealing with these questions in a well-informed and responsible manner.

During the conversation, I reminded Captain Clark of the regulation requiring another officer to be present when physical punishment is being administered. The conversation got around to pros and cons of physical punishment as a means of bringing about behaviour change and some of the undesirable side-effects of punishment. The desirability of making maximum use of encouragement and reward for desirable behaviour was also discussed. Captain Clark seemed anxious to forget the matter and made the point that he did not want Endeavour to be seen as a place where boys get knocked around.

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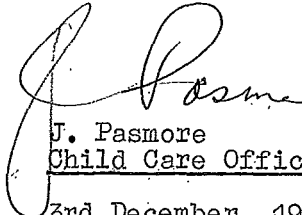
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It is hoped that this was an isolated incident, although from various reports from the boys since, it appears that on a number of occasions boys have been physically dealt with in interviews with Captain Clark by other than approved means.

It is not felt that any further action would be of benefit in changing the treatment of the boys at this time. However, should further such substantiated reports be received from the children in Care at Endeavour Training Farm, it is felt that the matter should be taken up at a higher level.



J. Pasmore
Child Care Officer

3rd December, 1975.

noted J. Indye
SRCA
4/12/75.

Noted
C/looper
A/SCCO(R)
2/1/76