

Exhibit G

Sometimes all you can do in this world is bear witness.

On Friday, August 4th I visited Bernie Tiede, who's currently incarcerated at the Estelle Unit just outside of Huntsville, Texas.

I was stunned at how much his health had deteriorated since the last time I saw him. Half of his face is paralyzed and he seemed to be truly struggling – I left worrying not only about his physical health but his mental health as well. The Bernie I've visited before in prison has always been very upbeat, positive, smiling and fundamentally joyful and appreciative, despite his situation. That's the Bernie everyone knows – the positive guy who's helping others and making the best of his situation. Sadly, that's only a small percentage of the Bernie I encountered on this day. As we visited for an hour and a half or so, I found myself starting to film him with my phone, to maybe share some of what I was hearing.

I think the clips below represent not only his personal situation but serves as a firsthand account of the conditions everyone there is living under. I've cut out almost all of the personal banter and distilled it down to bits that I think others considering his case might want to hear.

This first one is about his recent medical emergency:

[Bernie : Clip One](#)

These next four concern the extreme heat conditions at Estelle Unit and how the lack of air conditioning affects everyone there. It's perhaps a little redundant, but it's telling that the conversation kept floating back to this one subject. Why wouldn't it? It's the problem in the room, that no one can escape for long and is ruining the health, atmosphere and relations of everyone there.

[Bernie : Clip Two](#)

[Bernie : Clip Three](#)

[Bernie : Clip Four](#)

Bernie : Clip Five

Another thing he talked about that I thought was odd is the crazy schedule they've been imposing on the inmates. After a few hours of sleep they have to get up and take showers, have meals at very strange hours, etc. There's something about not being allowed to sleep continuously that seems cruel and unhealthy – maybe something you'd find more in a P.O.W. camp than a government facility.

Bernie : Clip Six

These last three clips are more personal to Bernie, about his past and possible future. The first is Bernie reflecting on his two years in Austin when he was out, and the last two are about how he has a nice situation awaiting him in the Dallas area at his sister's house should he be released.

Bernie : Clip Seven

Bernie : Clip Eight

Bernie : Clip Nine

I think it's very telling that the whole time I was there Bernie had not one bad thing to say about any person, a fellow inmate or corrections officer – he had no personal problems with anyone. It was all about these miserable and unnecessary conditions he and everyone there are having to live under. You could sense it in the atmosphere everywhere, no smiles or light-heartedness, just people suffering and trying to make it through the next hour of their lives. Even sweet and kind Bernie was sad and edgy – the opposite of his true nature.

As I said earlier, I left very depressed at his (and everyone else's) situation. Bernie just turned 65 years old, is in poor health, and is physically being pushed to the brink. I wondered if this was maybe the last time I would ever see him – that the heat could very well finish him off before this excruciating summer is finally over. That I might be witnessing a kind of slow manslaughter-in-

progress. Dark thoughts for sure, but all these things have been swirling through my mind. I share all this in hopes it could possibly make a difference with someone who has some authority.

Bernie used to sit outside his garage apartment in our back yard and read the newspaper to “Dude,” our pet pig (born Yankee Doodle on the 4th of July 12 years ago). He loved all the animals that swirled around our family, but had a special bond with the Dude. When Bernie asked me the other day how the little guy was doing, I talked about a small shady room we have for him out on our farm, where he lives with 3 younger rescue pigs. It’s been so hot and Dude’s had some health problems recently, so we splurged and put in a small \$129 air conditioner so they can at least get out of the heat if they want to. I had to say, “but to answer your question as to how Dude the pig is doing, all I can say is he’s living better than you are.”

Richard Linklater

Richard Linklater (Aug 10, 2023 13:15 CDT)

Richard Linklater

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