

August 15, 2005

Tony Rizzo
Kansas City Star
8455 College Blvd.
Overland Park, KS 66210

Dear Mr. Rizzo.

This is your "blackmail" letter from the Bumble Bee.

While posting this letter is a constitutionally protected activity elsewhere in our Nation, it constitutes "blackmail" if mailed or hand-delivered in Johnson County Kansas.

Therefore, I have caused this letter to be delivered by a Johnson County courier service so that it meets all the elements of Johnson County blackmail.

This letter is a willful act by me to compel you to act against your will and retract the attached December 17, 1992 article by threatening you with public ridicule, contempt, or degradation by exposing this errant article on www.fairtrialsinamerica.org.

The Kansas Attorney General's Office and the Kansas Parole Board lied to you at their press conference concerning this incident.

Had you done your homework and gone beyond the interview you would have discovered that the incident regards a revocation proceeding, not a parole hearing.

Evidence used in a *parole* hearing is not required to be disclosed. Evidence used in a *revocation* hearing is required to be disclosed.

The State of Kansas has concealed evidence in revocation proceedings as public policy for over 30 years and deliberately made a false press statement that you reported as true.

Best Regards,

THE BUMBLE BEE
Conrad J. Braun
3940 Hancock Street, Suite 208
San Diego, CA 92110

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Inmate gets notes in mix-up Confidential remarks were made at a Parole Board public hearing.

TONY RIZZO

Staff Writer

Confidential comments to the Kansas Parole Board about an inmate's possible release from prison were given to the inmate in a mix-up that has infuriated Attorney General Bob Stephan.

"What people say in that very sensitive situation has to be protected or the whole (parole) system is going to fall apart," Stephan said in a telephone interview Wednesday.

The substance of the comments was provided to the inmate, a Leawood man, by someone in Gov. Joan Finney's office, Stephan said.

Although Kansas law does not prohibit the release of such information, Parole Board policy regards such comments as confidential to keep inmates from identifying people who opposed their release.

A spokesman for the governor's office said the office may have been misinformed about the confidential nature of the comments after it asked the Parole Board why the inmate was denied parole.

Such a mix-up could scare people away from trusting or getting involved in the system, Stephan said. It is the first time during his 14 years of office that he had heard of such a breach of confidentiality, Stephan said.

He wrote letters last week to the governor and Parole Board Chairman James Francisco, criticizing the lapse and urging them to prevent it from occurring again.

The case involves a man serving a one- to two-year sentence imposed in Johnson County District Court on a charge of making a terroristic threat.

As part of the Kansas parole system, the Parole Board holds monthly public comment sessions to allow anyone to speak about an inmate's parole eligibility.

The board also provides forms for people to give written comments. The form instructs the person that the comments are considered confidential and are only for the use of Parole Board members.

When the Parole Board considered the Leawood man's case this fall, some members of his family expressed concerns about his release in the written forms.

Later, the governor's office, apparently acting on a request by the inmate, asked the Parole Board why the inmate was not released.

In a letter answering the governor's question, a Parole Board member wrote that the inmate's siblings "appeared at public comments with concerns about their brother's release and how his ex-wife and children may be in danger when he gets out." The Parole Board denied parole for the man and ordered that he stay in prison until his release date of September 1993.

Parole Board Director Micah Ross said Wednesday that board members, who are constantly traveling across the state, have not yet had an opportunity to meet and discuss Stephan's letter.

Bill McCormick, pardon and extradition attorney for the governor, said Wednesday that he does not know how the mix-up occurred but that his office will look into the matter.

In last week's letters, Stephan pointed out that neither the governor nor the Parole Board has any legal obligation to disclose written comments it receives.

"I strongly urge you to discontinue the practice of disclosing such information to the governor's office in the future," Stephan wrote to the Parole Board.

Stephan said Wednesday that he often receives similar requests from inmates upset about Parole Board action, but he does not question the board.

"I don't have any business questioning that and the governor doesn't either," Stephan said.

Illustration: photo (ran on Pg. C2 of MA edition)

CAPTION: Stephan