



DEPARTMENT OF

Health & Rehabilitative Services

Bob Graham, Governor

District Five

2255 EAST BAY DRIVE, CLEARWATER, FLORIDA 33516

July 14, 1982

Miller Newton, Ph.D.
Straight, Inc.
P. O. Box 40052
St. Petersburg, FL 33743

Mr. John Bustle

Mr. Terrell Harper

FRANKIE GOLDSBY

Dear Dr. Newton:

As you are aware, this office has received an official complaint regarding your program, which was investigated by Mr. John Bustle and Mr. Terrell Harper on July 6, 1982. Seven program clients were interviewed on that date. The following issues of concern surfaced in those interviews:

1. Marathoning: One client stated that she had been "marathoned" for 70 hours, allowed three hours sleep and then kept up for another full day before being allowed a full night's sleep. Marathoning was described as a disciplinary technique in which the client is forced to stay awake for long periods and confronted by rotating shifts of clients.
2. Spanking Machine: The "spanking machine" was described as a disciplinary technique where clients are made to crawl through a line of other clients while being spanked. Two youngsters interviewed stated they had gone through the spanking machine. Both felt that the experience had been more humiliating than painful.
3. Confrontation: Several clients related episodes of being "confronted" for various program infractions which ranged from "yelling and screaming" to being taken into a restroom by other clients and pushed, poked, and "nitpicked." Nitpicking was described as being restrained while being pinched and having one's hair pulled.
4. Peanut Butter Diet: Two clients indicated they were placed on a diet of peanut butter, bread and water. One client stated this lasted 25 days and the other stated it lasted two weeks. You have indicated this technique is used for discipline and behavior modification.

