



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

WESTERN REGION

PITTSBURGH STATE OFFICE BUILDING  
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA 15222

TELEPHONE: 412.565-7220/  
5144

February 20, 1975

Mrs. Virginia Thornburgh, President  
Allegheny County Chapter PARC  
1001 Brighton Road  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15233

Dear Ginny:

This is in reply to your letter of February 10 to Mr. Norman J. Taylor concerning the 406 Court Commitments to Polk State School. As you know, this office -- and the Superintendent of Polk State School -- are totally opposed to court commitments to State Schools and have vigorously opposed them.

Quite honestly, in these two (2) cases, that happened nearly simultaneously, Erie County judges caught us off guard. We tried to react and even thought one commitment had been blocked.

We are endeavoring to motivate County Administrators and Base Service Units to work more closely with the courts. I might say that the problem appears to be greater in the Northwest corner than in the counties contiguous to Allegheny.

I will keep you advised.

Best personal wishes,

C.A. Peters  
Commissioner of Mental Retardation

CAP:tb

cc: Mr. Norman J. Taylor

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**Polk FILE**