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DEPT. OF PUBLIC WELFARE  
Ref. to \_\_\_\_\_

Russell R. Brinker  
3740 West 26 Street  
Erie, Pennsylvania 16506

April 18, 1973

Mrs. Helene Wohlgemuth  
Secretary of Public Welfare  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Mrs. Wohlgemuth

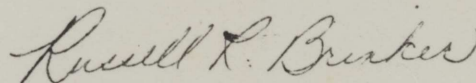
It is a regrettable situation when we must dismiss a person for doing a top level job under very difficult conditions. If the situations at Polk State School and Hospital are as reported by you in the local newspaper, it is the direct result of inadequate financial backing of the controlling officers of our state school system. The lack of sufficient funding by the legislature has resulted in the over crowding and understaffed conditions at Polk and other state institutions, which you give as reason for dismissing the superintendent.

Any person who works with the retarded would agree that there are times when it is absolutely necessary to use restraints and other means to control and protect the patient and those around him. I am positive that any such situations as reported after your visit to Polk, were the result of the need for this kind of action to protect the patients at the institution.

I would further have to disagree with this type of direct, hasty action without some due process in favor of the superintendent and discussion with the Polk Board of Trustees and other interested persons. If such a Board of Trustees are to function with any meaning, even if only in an advisory capacity, I believe their counsel and advice should be sought out in this kind of situation.

I am awaiting further information, from Mr. Taylor, as indicated in your telegram, before I make a further decision relative to my association with the Polk State School, as a member of it's Board of Trustees.

Sincerely



Russell R. Brinker

cc: Gov. Shapp

cc: Dr. McClelland