

April 18, 1973
205 Division St.
Oil City, Pa.
16301

APR 23 1973

Govenor Shapp
Govenor's Mansion
Harrisburg, Pa.

Rel. to

CC: *Seely*

Dear Govenor Shapp,

I have visited Polk State School and I know some of the employees of the school. I have never heard anything but praise for the type of treatment and concern that Dr. McClelland shows each and every patient in his care. I'm sure it means a great deal to a retarded person to be treated as a person, and as a person with a name, not as an inanimate object.

I have served on the board of Easter Seal with Dr. McClelland and have found him concerned for the welfare of all those he comes in contact with.

As a lifelong resident of Venango County, I know that Dr. McClelland has constantly tried to expose patients to the community and the community to them through such projects as the music groups at Polk State School, in working out a program with Venango County Vocational Technical School, encouraged programs and birthday parties put on by various churches and civic groups who mingle with the patients at the school. The annual circus day has always been looked forward to by those cared for by Polk State School and by the employees there as they know how much it means to the patients. Dr. McClelland worked hard to retain the farm at the school, as he felt the farm experience benefitted so many of those in his care.

I believe that a school and hospital as large as Polk needs an exceptional superintendant. I also believe this job should be above politics. I do not know Mrs. Wohlgemuth's nor Mrs. Elkin's training nor qualifications for judging Dr. McClelland, but I do protest what I believe to be the unjust and undeserved firing of a qualified doctor of the highest integrity and finest principals who has devoted years of concerned treatment to those in his care.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Robert Elliston
Mrs. Robert Elliston

Original letter to Govenor Shapp
Duplicate to Mrs Wohlgemuth state sec'y dept public welfare
Duplicate to ~~Mrs Elkin~~ PARC - Representative Alvin Kahle
Duplicate TriCity News - Erie Times
Duplicate to Venango Co. PARC President Mr. Haldabrand
Duplicate to Senator ~~Smith~~ FRAME