

Erie Center for the Blind

ERIE COUNTY BRANCH • PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND, INC.
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MEMBER AGENCY OF THE UNITED COMMUNITY SERVICES OF ERIE COUNTY

REHABILITATION SERVICES • PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS • RECREATION • TRAINING • WORKSHOP

May 1, 1973

SECRETARY'S OFFICE

MAY 3 1973

DEPT. OF PUBLIC WELFARE

Ref. to _____

Mrs. Helene Wohlgemuth
Secretary of Welfare,
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
234 Fisher Plaza
Harrisburg, PA. 17101

Re: Polk State School

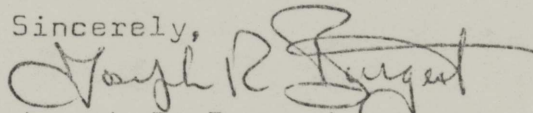
Dear Mrs. Wohlgemuth:

It is my opinion that you have been used by several politicians for their own purposes. Please allow me to explain: I attended a meeting at Edinboro State College where you were the featured speaker. After listening to your emotional address concerning the welfare of children in the Commonwealth, I was impressed by your apparent dedication to your responsibilities. Remembering this address, I can readily understand how your first reaction to the "cages" at Polk State School would lead you to request the resignation of Doctor Mc Clelland. It is my opinion that these "cages" are much superior to drugging children. Drugs will be the outcome of your action due to the lack of staff (I'm sure Dr. Mc Clelland has asked for additional staff in the past - perhaps if more attention were paid to those closest to situations).

As I read in the papers, Dr. Mc Clelland refused to turn Polk State School into a political patronage plum as was requested by several local politicians. Residents of this area have always been proud that Polk State School has been kept above politics. Now it appears that you have been used to dismiss one administrator and replace him with one more sympathetic to the politicians requests for patronage appointments.

I urge you to reconsider your actions in regard to the Polk State situation - your impetuosity in your actions has added greatly to the ill-will created. You have lost the admiration and respect of many people who formerly thought you to be fair and a good administrator.

Sincerely,



Joseph R. Burgert
Assistant Director