

ERIE ASSOCIATION FOR RETARDED CHILDREN, Inc.

136 EAST AVENUE • ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA 16507

Telephone - Area Code 814
456-5345

April 24, 1973

Received in
SECRETARY'S OFFICE

APR 25 1973

DEPT. OF PUBLIC WELFARE

Rel. to _____

The Honorable Helene Wohlgemuth,
Secretary of Welfare
Harrisburg, Pa.

Dear Mrs. Wohlgemuth,

Enclosed is a copy of our position statement which we sent to the news releases on Tuesday, April 24. We are sending a copy of the same to the Governor and to the President of the Pennsylvania Association for Retarded Children.

We are deeply concerned with the adverse criticism regarding our retarded children as a result of the dismissal of Dr. James McClelland, and are hopeful that this criticism will not set us back in our programming for children for whom you have been so concerned.

Perhaps, we in Northwestern Pennsylvania are getting more of the "flack" than the eastern part of the state, but the criticism is running rampant about the manner in which the Superintendent was released.

We are trying as an Association to cement the relations between all groups concerned with retarded children and we trust that our efforts will bear fruit.

We want you to know that we appreciate all you are doing for the welfare of retarded children.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Lubecki

Mrs. Edward Lubecki,
President

ERIE ASSOCIATION FOR RETARDED CHILDREN
(ERIE COUNTY CHAPTER)

Affiliated with
PENNSYLVANIA AND NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS FOR RETARDED CHILDREN

136 East Avenue — Erie, Pennsylvania



Mrs. Edward Lubecki, President of the Erie Association for Retarded Children, Inc., meeting with the Executive Committee of the Erie Association for Retarded Children on Monday evening, April 23, 1973, issued the following position statement:

"The Erie Association for Retarded Children is concerned with all retarded persons living in institutions, private or public, in the community, in their homes, in foster homes, or group homes.

The Association is concerned that all retarded children and adults be treated with kindness, love and dignity and that they receive training and education that will move them from dependence to independence.

We further assert the right of parents to speak on behalf of their children whether they are in an institution or in the community.

We are not fully cognizant of all of the reasons for the dismissal of Dr. James McClelland, Superintendent of Polk State School. However, we do believe the Board of Trustees of Polk State School should have been involved in any decision-making regarding the operation of the Institution.

Wince Erie County has children at Polk State School, we as an Association fully affirm the request of Dr. James McClelland for a hearing, and we further concur with the request of our local legislators for a full review of the facts so that all people affected will be fully aware of the factors upon which this decision was reached."