

# Support Grows for Fired Polk Head

POLK, Pa. (AP) — Support continued to broaden for the ousted superintendent of Polk State School and Hospital, with two "grass roots" rallies planned on his behalf within the next week.

Dr. James H. McClelland, 58, was fired Tuesday by state Welfare Secretary Helene Wohlgemuth, primarily because he permitted the use

of wooden, playpen-like enclosures for confining acutely retarded and violent patients.

The first rally was scheduled for this afternoon at nearby Rocky Grove fairgrounds. It was to involve the institution's staff and area residents in what one source called "show of grass roots support for Dr. McClelland."

The second was planned for a week from Sunday and also was to involve staff and area residents as well as parents of children treated at Polk.

Area state legislators and other political figures were invited to the rallies, but as of Friday night none were known to be planning to attend except Franklin Mayor Guy Mammolet.

It was also possible that representatives from the state Welfare Department may attend.

Someone identifying himself as a spokesman for the department in Pittsburgh called the Oil City Derrick Friday night and asked about the time and place of the rally today.

Meanwhile, demands for a legislative investigation were stepped up Friday into the Polk situation.

Seven of the nine members of Polk's board of trustees said they wanted a legislative probe, and a state representative said he planned to press for one.

"I think Dr. McClelland's firing was deplorable and completely unwarranted, the result of a witch hunt," said

Mrs. E.M. Ralston of Erie, chairman of the Polk board and mother of a 20-year-old son being treated at the institution.

She said a legislative investigation was "the only way this deplorable situation can be resolved."

The Associated Press polled seven of the board's nine members. All said they supported McClelland and that they learned of the superintendent's dismissal after it was announced.

A score of social welfare organizations from across northwestern Pennsylvania also called for McClelland's reinstatement.

Within the institution, spon-

sors reported that more than 1,100 staff members had signed a petition backing McClelland.

Sources also said patient morale remained very poor among those Polk residents who understood what was happening.

As an example, one source said some residents did not attend a Good Friday religious service "because God wasn't answering their prayers."

cc: Secretary  
Carskadon  
Klein  
Hockendoner

## Pennhurst Restraint Use Is Cut

POTTSTOWN, Pa. (AP) —

The use of straitjackets, hand muffs and other restraints for mentally retarded patients has been reduced 90 per cent at Pennhurst State School and Hospital, says the institution's superintendent.

Dr. C. Duane Youngberg says mentally retarded persons who are prone to violence can be controlled without physical restraints through the use of pioneering behavioral techniques—methods he hopes other institutions will copy.

He said the techniques have eliminated 90 per cent of physical restraint usage at Pennhurst, and "now we're working on that last 10 per cent."

Pennhurst, capable of handling more patients than any other similar institution in the state, now has a population of nearly 2,400 and staff of 900. Once it had more than 4,000 patients.

Youngberg said so-called "uncontrollably violent" patients, once feared by staff and other residents and locked up for years, now live behind curtains instead of bars.

He said there are no cages or pens at Pennhurst, like those that led to this week's dismissal of Dr. James McClelland as superintendent at Polk State School and Hospital in Venango County.

Only Polk has more patients than Pennhurst, 2,300.

McClelland said he used pens at Polk because of insufficient staff.

Youngberg gave this description of behavioral therapy: reward acceptable behavior, withdraw the reward for unacceptable behavior, repeat with patient.

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