

819 Rocky Grove Ave
Franklin, Pa. 16323

April 19, 1973

SECRETARY'S OFFICE

APR 23 1973

DEPT. OF PUBLIC WELFARE

Rel. to

Mrs Helene Wohlgenuth

Sec. Dept of Welfare

Harrisburg, Pa. 17120

Dear Madame:

I am in direct opposition to the dismissal of Dr. James McClelland Jr as Superintendant of the Polk State School & Hospital.

The charges of cruel, degrading & inhumane conditions at the institution are totally unfounded.

I have learned from my first eight years as an attendant that what might at first have seemed cruel, inhumane & degrading were only measures used to insure the well-being of the resident himself and others as well. These protective measures should not be abandoned until something is proven better to take their place.

In regard to programs, I feel you have ^{been} badly misinformed. We have excellent ones five days a week but none on Saturdays.

On Sept 30th, 1972 I attended the dedication of the Human Services Complex of Kenango County. The "Polk-a-Dot" Combo and Girls' Drill Team Unit from Polk State School gave a short performance prior to the dinner. After they had finished, it was very noticeable that comments from you were lacking. Others from your group went out of their way to compliment & even talk with these residents. Surely, the dignity of your office should demand a few words of praise & commendation on their behalf. It would have meant much to them!

The dismissal of Dr. James H. McClelland Jr will undoubtedly effect the emotional stability of many of our residents & the quality of care given them. He was very compassionate to them.

As a Pennsylvania taxpayer, as well as employee of the Polk State School & Hospital I demand that Dr McClelland be reinstated and a public apology from you and the PARC be made to him.

Sincerely,

Helen E Grettler