

Received in
SECRETARY'S OFFICE

APR 24 1973

DEPT. OF PUBLIC WELFARE

Rel. to

April 23, 1973

Governor Milton Shapp
Capital Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Dear Governor:

As a concerned resident of Venango County, I wish to protest the unfair and unjust criticism of one of our states' and nations' BETTER residential facilities for the mentally retarded -- namely Polk State School and Hospital.

The degrading manner in which Secretary Helene Wohlgemuth fired Superintendent James H. McClelland, Jr., M. D. has had a demoralizing effect not only on the staff at the school but more importantly on the residents and their families.

I find it very frightening to live in a State where one ill-informed appointed official has this kind of power. Power to disturb thousands of lives. I find it doubly hard to believe that you as Governor would sanction such action without conducting an investigation and consulting with medical experts.

As a professional staff member of a Venango County Health and Welfare agency, I question Mrs. Wohlgemuth's qualifications for evaluating the care and treatment of the severely mentally retarded and physically handicapped. For Mrs. Wohlgemuth to rely on the emotionally biased opinion of a non-professional organization (P.A.R.C.) is unjust and unfair.

I urge you to conduct a complete investigation into this matter.

Sincerely,

Josephine M. McCracken, R.N.
Mrs. Josephine McCracken

CC: Secretary Wohlgemuth
Senator Frame
Representative Kahle