

# CLARION STATE COLLEGE

Clarion, Pennsylvania 16214

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SPEECH and HEARING CLINIC

April 27, 1973

Received in  
SECRETARY'S OFFICE

MAY 4 1973

DEPT. OF PUBLIC WELFARE

Mrs. Helene Wohlgemuth, Secretary  
Department of Public Welfare  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Dear Mrs. Wohlgemuth:

Reading in the newspaper of your firing Dr. James McClelland, Superintendent of Polk State School and Hospital brought extreme disappointment at the shocking arbitrary act.

I first visited the Polk State School and Hospital in 1954 and have made frequent visits to the institution over the past eighteen years. For the past ten years I have had close contact with the institution.

I have always been impressed with the fine treatment the residents at Polk have received with the limited number of professionals and non-professional employees and with a physical plant so embarrassingly over-crowded and out-dated. In all aspects of his work Dr. McClelland has done an excellent professional job.

Over the recent years there has been a fantastic growth in the educational programs for the residents and the in-service training program for the employees at the institution. I have been intimately associated with the growth and development of the speech, hearing, and language program at Polk. Under Dr. McClelland's direction this program has grown to be the finest program in the nation for a residential school.

Dr. McClelland has done an outstanding administrative and professional leadership job at Polk. It appears that the Secretary of Welfare should be censured for not providing adequate human and physical resources for the operation of Polk State School and Hospital.

Sincerely,

*Harold V. Hartley, Jr., Ph.D.*

Harold V. Hartley, Jr., Ph.D.  
Professor and Chairman,  
Department of Speech Pathology  
and Audiology

cc: Milton J. Shapp

HVH:dl