

Received in
SECRETARY'S OFFICE

APR 23 1873

DEPT. OF PUBLIC WELFARE

Ref. to _____

April 21st 1873.

Mrs. Helen Wohlgenuth,

Penna. Welfare Secretary.

As a citizen of the State of Penna. and a taxpayer for many years, I wish to vigorously protest the summary and undesired firing of Dr. Jas. McClelland, Supt. of Pa. State School and Hospital, especially for the flimsy reasons given by you, as published in the Sharon Herald of April, 18th '73.

You should know that certain patients in the School must be restrained in some manner to prevent them from causing injury to other patients or to themselves, or from wandering away from the School. It would seem to me that the so called cages, which you mentioned are far more to be desired than straight-jackets or the use of sedatives.

In the newspaper, you were quoted as saying that the cages were padlocked while Dr. McClelland was quoted as saying the doors were held shut by a sliding bolt. I would much prefer to believe Dr. McClelland's statement, and will certainly say that I would not favor padlocking of the cages.

For many years, playpens, somewhat similar to your so called cages, were ~~as~~ used by parents to keep their children in line, or in a certain area of the room.

I never heard of this as being inhuman treatment.

It would seem to me that, if you received complaints of conditions at Palk, you could have suspended Dr. McClelland, instituted a thorough investigation, inquired as to how similar Institutions handled the restraining of aggressive patients, selected

The most humane method, and ordered Dr. McClelland to put your recommendations into effect, and if he refused to do so, then fire him.

From what I learn from people in the know, Dr. McClelland is very well liked by both ~~the~~ the employees and the patients at Polk School and is very well respected in his community. Also he is dedicated to his profession.

It would seem to me that the firing of Dr. McClelland was an act of dirty politics at its worst and that you as the instigator are a knucklehead or wit wit and certainly not qualified to be Penna Welfare Secretary.

A Penna citizen.