

Erie County Medical Society

Erie, Pennsylvania

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SECRETARY'S OFFICE

MAY 8 1973

DEPT. OF PUBLIC WELFARE

Ref. to _____

PRESIDENT
WILLIAM D. LAMBERTON, M.D.
213 East 41 Street
Erie, Pa. 16504

May 4, 1973

Mrs. Helene Wohlgemuth, Secretary
Department of Public Welfare
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17125

Dear Mrs. Wohlgemuth:

The physicians of Erie County Express our concern about the recent firing of Dr. James McClelland, superintendent of Polk State School and Hospital.

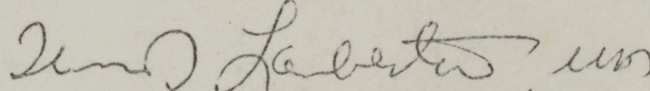
Over the years, as professionals, we have had great respect for his capabilities, and many of our patients have members of their families as residents of that institution. Up to the present time, we are not aware of any complaints from these partents concerning the manner in which their family members are treated at Polk State School and Hospital. Almost unanimously, during the period of time since the infamous deed on the part of state officials in dismissing this fine physician was perpetrated, our patients have had only words of commendation for this physician.

We strongly abhor your actions in allowing this fine man, who has devoted his entire life to the medical profession and, particularly, to the care of retarded citizens of the state, to be fired in the manner that it was done.

We do not believe that the stated reasons; namely, the use of large play pens in this institution have any merit or justification since they are, in fact, a humane measure of controlling the hyper-active retarded people. In the strongest terms, we encourage you to reinstate Dr. McClelland to his former position.

Sincerely,

ERIE COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY



William D. Lamberton, M.D.
President

WDL/mk

cc: Milton J. Shapp
Bernard Dombrowski
Robert Bellomini

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Mrs. Helene Wohlgemuth

Page Two

cc: David DiCarlo
Forest Hopkins
David S. Hayes
Quentin R. Orlando
Richard Frame
Cosmopolite Herald, Girard
Albion News, Albion
North East Breeze, North East
Corry Evening Journal, Corry
Edinboro Independent, Edinboro
Times Leader, Union City
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