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SECRETARY'S OFFICE

APR 23 1973

DEPT. OF PUBLIC WELFARE

Ref. to \_\_\_\_\_

G. D. #2

Lewisburg, Pa.  
17801

Apr. 29 1973

Dear Mrs Wohlgenuth:

Two years ago I visited the  
Selinsgrove State School and  
Hospital weekly as a volunteer.

I did this for a year and a half  
but now go down only a few times  
yearly to visit the residents with  
whom I became friends.

One of the residents is a truly  
remarkable lady named Katy  
Arkness. Katy has a very  
high I. Q. and is an avid reader.  
However, she is severely handicapped  
physically.

Katy spent many years at Polk  
State School and Hospital and  
has always spoken very highly of  
Dr. Mc Clelland.

I have learned to know much  
about institutions for as a volunteer  
I have met both staff workers  
and residents and I have made  
many observations and really feel



that I have an understanding of the many, many problems encountered in such an environment. I learned this through many upsetting incidents I witnessed and also personally encountered, as I was hit on one occasion and sworn at etc. plus many other small unhappy incidents. Of course, these were only minor incidents and it's not because of them that I am not a regular volunteer at this time. I seem to have more duties since I am chairman of our Boy Scout Committee, etc. I don't have the time.

I know exactly how you felt when you visited Gold State School and I know that you sincerely felt compelled to have Dr. McClelland dismissed but I really feel certain just on Katy's knowledge and my own observation that Dr. McClelland was doing the very best that he was able to do and I really completely trust Katy's understanding and wisdom; and she knows that he is a wonderful man and that an injustice has been done to him.



I sincerely hope you will give  
this matter a lot of serious  
consideration.

Please understand that I do  
know ~~how~~ how you were affected  
by what you saw. But I know it was  
necessary because the attendants  
really have a difficult job  
with these unfortunate people.

Sincerely,  
Helen B. Stahl