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April 19, 1973

Received in
SECRETARY'S OFFICE

APR 20 1973

DEPT. OF PUBLIC WELFARE

Re: Mr. _____

State Welfare Secretary,
Helene Wohlgemuth
State Capitol
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

In re: Doctor James H. McClelland, his dismissal

Dear Mrs. Wohlgemuth:

I vehemently deplore your uncouth and vulgar manner in summarily discharging Doctor James H. McClelland, a conscientious and dedicated public servant.

As stated by letter to the Governor of this date I am perfectly familiar with the unquestioned professional reputation and actual accomplishments of the Superintendent of Polk. I am curious as to your qualifications and motives. I am sure that this episode will shed some light on this matter.

If this episode is characteristic, God help the Welfare Department.

The stated reason for your action is so absurd as not to justify a retort.

I suspect your motives to be political. To fire a man for political reasons is understandable but to conceal that reason under this personal attack on his competency, particularly after he has been in his official capacity under both the Republican and Democratic Administrations in Harrisburg would be rotten.

I have never heard of such barbaric and anti-Christian conduct to a man of such eminent stature as occurred in this case. You have done a dis-service to Polk, to the Superintendent

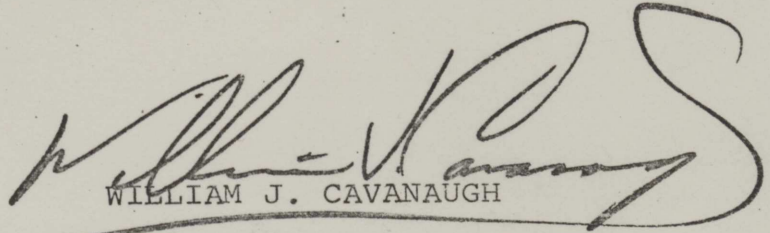
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Helene Wohlgemuth
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and of significance, to your Employer, the Governor.

I am perfectly well aware that there are several hundred Erieites who are patients at Polk. I know many of their parents and relatives and I know that these people have nothing but the highest of praise, admiration and respect for the doctor.

I know that if this indefensible action is not rescinded it shall have disastrous political consequences to the Governor and as an active Democrat, interested in advancing the Democratic Party within the State, I consider this action a calamity for my Party.



WILLIAM J. CAVANAUGH

WJC:fb

cc: Governor Milton Shapp

Erie Senator, Quentin Orlando