

46-PPB-MDT
State Inst-Annex



CARL H. SWANSON
DIRECTOR

State of Minnesota
Department of Social Security
Division of Public Institutions
Globe Building - 4th and Cedar
St. Paul 1

May 24, 1946

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Mr. H. B. Whittier
Superintendent
Annex for Defective Delinquents
Saint Cloud, Minnesota

My dear Supt. Whittier:

I have your letter of April 27th and have been hoping for reports on some of the men from you.

I am interested in knowing what type of personal investigation you are making, as according to Mr. Swanson we should ask the cooperation of the welfare board in placing these men as we do for all of the feeble-minded. I believe you will find there may be an occasional instance where a member or employe of a welfare board has been prejudiced in reports, but primarily my guess is the reports of the welfare board would stack up about as well as reports from other investigating organizations. It seems to me in those instances where we do not have sufficient information, or where it does not seem to be borne out by other facts, we must try and help the welfare board to make a better investigation and give facts not opinions. That is the thing that we are putting emphasis upon, and as it progresses so that we will get better education and better understanding, I think we will get better reports. I do think we should know whether you are using the parole board or reformatory personnel to make the personal contacts, as otherwise we may have some misunderstanding concerning responsibility and plans in the community.

I believe the welfare boards primarily are interested in the welfare of the individuals. There are exceptions, just as there are exceptions in almost any organization of persons who do not live up to the best ideals of it. I feel any investigation you make should come with duplicate copies for the welfare boards, in order that we be sure that any plan is thoroughly coordinated. I am uncertain from your letter whether it is your desire to assume personal responsibility for anyone that is placed out of the institution, or whether you concur in feeling, as Mr. Swanson indicated, that the welfare boards should assume the same responsibility as for other wards. In that connection, you may be interested in a plan for the Swatonna wards that was worked out by discussion with Mr. Swanson, Dr. Gray, Mrs. Daniels, Dr. Engberg, Mr. Vevle and myself. Of course this would not apply to the reformatory in any sense of the word but it may be of interest to you.

Very truly yours,

Division of Public Institutions
Carl H. Swanson, Director

By *Mildred Thomson*
Mildred Thomson (Miss) Head, Bur. for FM & Epil.

MT:am