

41-WLP-MNT
State Inst Gen

January 18th, 1941

Dr. Engberg

Mrs. Benjamin Kilavetz
Virginia, Minnesota

My dear Mrs. Kilavetz:

Your letter to the Governor was referred to the Division of Social Welfare, and to me. We have attempted to determine the name of the child to whom you refer, but find it impossible to do so. Will you not write again and let us have the name of the child. When this information is received we can give you some satisfaction as to possible plans for the child. There will probably be no possibility of immediate institutionalization at Faribault, as children brought into Probate Court in the early part of 1934, are still awaiting institutionalization in the Department where custodial care is the main requirement. From the fact that this child is barely four years old and is not able to take care of herself as the usual four year old child, I believe she would be listed with the group for whom we are so very far back in institutionalization.

However, when we actually know what can be expected of her in the way of progress, we will be able to give you information that will indicate whether she is being given as much attention as is needed for her own advancement.

Will you let us know at an early date to whom you refer in order that we can make a further investigation.

MT/ml
cc St. Louis Co, Virginia
cc St. Louis Co, Duluth
cc Dr. Engberg ✓
cc Governor Stassen

Yours very truly,

(Miss) Mildred Thomson
Supervisor, Section for
Feebleminded & Epileptic

Virginia, Minnesota
January 4, 1940

His Excellency Governor E. Stassen
State Capitol Building
St. Paul, Minnesota

Dear Governor:

Several months ago I was in your office in regard to placing a child in the Fairbault Institution. I was then told to contact the head of the child welfare department, which I did. Then I was told to place the child in a private institution, and that was done.

She was four years old the first of January, and has been there for six months already, but there has been no improvement in her health, the fact of the matter is that she has made no progress in walking, which naturally requires individual attention and training, which in a place like the one she is in cannot be given her as there are other children and they cannot give her any more time than they do with the help that they have. They love her dearly and are doing the best they can for her, but in an institution like Fairbault, with doctors taking time for special cases and adequate nurses to take care of them, I am sure she would make much better progress, especially in her walking.

The parents are not able to take that special care at home, as her mother is now under the Doctor's care and will have to go under the knife, as soon as her condition permits, and her husband is on a salary, which barely makes both ends meet, with constant doctor bills since the baby was born and her condition demanding a doctor's care, medicine, etc.

Dear friend, will you be kind enough to give my plea your most earnest attention, so that her application for Fairbault will be speedily acted upon.

I have been one of your many admirers ever since I first met you when you made your first visit in Duluth and the Range, and one of your greatest campaigners. Perhaps as you know I am a very busy woman, doing a great deal of cultural and civic work, at present I am on the Board of Directors of the Red Cross, I also represent the Council of Jewish Women for the Red Cross. I am president of the local Hadassah group for the upbuilding of Palestine, am a chartered member of the Eastern Star, and have been given an office this year, am a member of the Wednesday Musicale, also the Shrine Auxiliary for crippled children, I also belong to the Republican Club, and the Garden Club. I am one of the founders of the Range Symphony Orchestra and present manager for Virginia. I am vice-president of the all range council of the Zionist Organization for the Jewish National Fund, and am on the executive committee of the Minnesota Colony for Palestine of which Mr. Moses Barron is chairman, so you see I am a very busy woman with all of that I have taken care of children, not my own, but they are very dear to me, especially the child I am pleading for your help. Won't you please be mindful of my plea and expediate her entrance to the Fairbault Institution. I am sure it can be done with your help.

Please forgive me for this lengthy note, but I am writing with tears in my eyes, and grief in my heart for one of the most beautiful and dearest unfortunate human creatures in the world, and I love her dearly. Kindly advise me what you will do for her, and you will have my everlasting gratitude, and I know you will get your reward in heaven, for are we not preparing ourselves here on earth for our eternal home?

Thanking you most sincerely for bearing with me, and with kindest personal greetings to yourself and your family a most happy holiday season, I am your most obedient servant.

Sincerely yours,

S/ Mrs. Benjamin Milavetz