

RETYPE FROM ORIGINAL

Faribault State School & Hospital
June 11, 1956

Dr. Dale C. Cameron, Director
Division of Medical Services
Dr. E. J. Engberg, Superintendent

School Program

As you know, it was necessary for me to leave the Saturday luncheon at the annual meeting of the Minnesota Association for Retarded Children early in order to meet the plane on which Dr. David J. H. Thomas was arriving as a representative of the World Health Organization to start his visit to Minnesota in Faribault as a counselor on mental retardation.

Senator Elmer L. Andersen had completed his address only so far as it concerned school programs when I had to leave. I had been struck by the fact that in two instances when he referred to the importance of School Department matters in situations, he mentioned specifically the State School at Owatonna, School for the Braille and Sight Saving and the School for the Deaf in Faribault but omitted reference to this institution nor did he mention the Cambridge State School and Hospital. Senator Anderson presents is material in such an excellent manner that I regretted that I could not speak to him after he had completed his speech in order to learn whether failure to include the Faribault State School and Hospital was an oversight or that we had failed to impress the Interim Commission on Handicapped Children when they visited here with the importance of an educational program and the problems we were encountering because of our inadequate staff of teachers. I believe our teachers should be qualified as and classified by Civil Service as special teachers with salaries the same as at the two state schools here and at the Owatonna State School. Upon my return, I discussed my concern with Mrs. Olive Lynch, our School Principal, and requested her to prepare a statement that could be forwarded for your information in regard to this matter and which could be submitted to Senator Andersen should you believe that necessary in order to be certain that the educational needs of our patients have been or will receive careful consideration by the Interim commission of which he is chairman.

I believe that Mrs. Lynch is particularly qualified to evaluate our present educational program, to recognize the present deficiencies in fully meeting the educational needs of our patients and to determine the additional teachers needed if our School department is to function fully.

Her observations and comments are based on twenty years of service in the teaching field for mental defectives in this institution except for a three years leave of absence for military service during World War II. Therefore, her experience includes the school program prior to and subsequent to the opening of the Owatonna State School and the transfer of our educable group to Owatonna on July 1, 1945. She took sufficient work during summer sessions to graduate from the Institute of Child Welfare, University of Minnesota in 1953 and her B.S. degree is in elementary education with a minor in special education. Her work toward a M.A. has been in the field of administration with additional courses in special education.

EJE:aj

Cc: Mrs. Lynch

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