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Assembly California Legislature

KEN MACDONALD
ASSEMBLYMAN, THIRTY-SEVENTH DISTRICT
VICE CHAIRMAN
PUBLIC HEALTH

June 2, 1967

The Honorable Ronald Reagan
Governor of the State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, California

My dear Governor Reagan:

Reference my April 4 letter to you concerning the Camarillo State Hospital personnel terminations and the Ventura County Mental Health Program.

Although I have not received a direct response to my letter, I have received general department communications and news releases. Frankly, it has been difficult for me to obtain a clear picture of the proposed personnel and administrative changes and the long-range objectives of the Department of Mental Hygiene. However, as a member of the Assembly Committee on Public Health and as a former County Supervisor with close ties to local government, I am alarmed at the general picture of mental health administration.

On one hand I see us barely holding the present level of our Short-Doyle programs which are hard pressed for adequate professional and staff personnel. On the other hand, I see people with extensive training threatened with terminations. This would not present any serious problem if the Short-Doyle program was funded and equipped to take these people and orient them to all expanded community mental health programs. However, as you know, there is no budgetary latitude in the local or state elements of this excellent program.

In addition to this, I see the possibility and desirability of undertaking the progressive approach as spelled out in AB 1220 by Assemblyman Lanterman, which is going to create

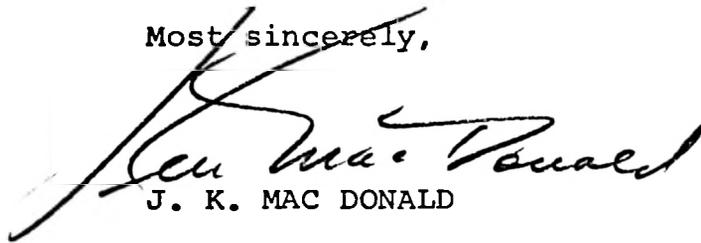
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for your info
Ken Mac

June 2, 1967

additional trained personnel requirements. I also see very questionable utilization of our costly hospital facilities as expressed in my letter of April 4th and other unresolved problems.

For these and many other reasons, I respectfully request that a moratorium be placed on personnel terminations until some of these serious problems have been resolved. I would appreciate the opportunity to sit down with you at your convenience and review this picture as I see it. I can assure you that I share your desire to provide the best possible service within our economic capability.

Most sincerely,



J. K. MAC DONALD

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