

GENERAL OBSERVATION

The Weeks School is typical of a class. By statute, it is set up to be an old fashioned institution, condemned to bad classification. It is the victim of improper commitments and it reflects a lack of community resources. It is charged with a heterogeneous conglomerate of problems that make for confusion in objective, philosophy and treatment.

Its management is suffering from certain handicaps, the first of which, of course, is the war. Staff members come and go as replacements become increasingly difficult to make. More serious, though, is the testimony that the parade of administrations has resulted in conflicting loyalties which have spread beyond the campus. This is not surprising in view of the fact that some of the present employees have worked under four superintendents within a period of fifteen years; it is a condition that invites chaos. It is high time to lay the foundation for permanency of administration, undivided loyalty and respect for the school's policy.

The school needs more than anything else, at this time, an awakened statewide interest upon the part of the citizens of Vermont. There is much more to do than undertake a purge of illicit and improper corporal punishment. Lay another foundation in improved childrens' services, throughout the state, in juvenile courts staffed and equipped to function as case working agencies, in community organization for the prevention of delinquency. Do not stop until you have made the Weeks School a children's institution, functioning as an integral part of a statewide child welfare program.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Roy L. McLaughlin