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## Letter from L. H. Fredricks to Representative Burdick Regarding Elizabeth McCleskey, February 5, 1953

L. H. Fredricks

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# QUAIN & RAMSTAD CLINIC

BISMARCK, N. D.

February 5, 1953.

INTERNAL MEDICINE

L. H. FREDRICKS, M. D.  
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K. J. JOHNSON, M. D.

Hon. Representative Usher L. Burdick,  
United States House of Representatives Building,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Burdick:

I have a favor to ask of you. Miss Elizabeth McClesky, who has been employed as a Federal Welfare Worker at Fort Yates, North Dakota, has been recently discharged from her position there. The discharge date was January 22, 1953. She presented adequate facts three months ago to answer the charges preferred against her. However, they did not notify her until December 22, 1952 of her discharge, and she was notified that she could have 10 days to appeal her case. However, during the holidays, it was impossible to get in contact with the Department of the Interior. Mr. George Register and I consulted Senator Wm. Langer and he had repeated promises from Mr. Chapman, Secretary of the Interior, that Miss McClesky would be allowed to transfer. However, we found out that he only made the promises and had done nothing about it. Therefore, we have to approach the new Secretary of the Interior. Senator Langer felt that it would be much better if another representative from North Dakota would contact the new Secretary, as he would be more favorable to you than he would be to him.

I have gone over the charges preferred against Miss McClesky and to me they appear juvenile, and the only reason that I could see would be that they wished to get rid of her. One year ago she asked for a transfer because she realized that certain individuals were not very friendly to her. However, they persuaded her not to go through with her transfer but to stay on at Fort Yates, and so she thought that her work was satisfactory. Then six months ago they decided to start proceedings against her, although she never had ample time to prepare a statement answering the charges. At present the appeal is before the Secretary of the Interior. She would like very much to have adequate time to prepare a brief to answer the charges against her.

I certainly believe that Miss McClesky should have a fair trial and have the opportunity to present her case before a group that is not prejudiced. She does not wish to go back to Fort Yates. The only thing she desires is to get a transfer. She has fifteen years of excellent service to her credit and has had nothing but satisfactory

Page 2: Usher L. Burdick.

ratings until she came to Fort Yates, North Dakota. She is a former resident of Birmingham, Alabama. My interest in her is that she, as an American citizen, is entitled to a square deal and an opportunity to answer the charges against her. I have known Miss McClesky for two years as a patient and have found out that she is a very fine individual and very conscientious, and at no time has ever questioned the number of hours needed to help the indians at Fort Yates. She has numerous affidavits to prove that her work was satisfactory. I have contacted the heads of the State Welfare Board of North Dakota and they state that they have never had any difficulty with Miss McClesky.

If there is anything that you can do for Miss McClesky I would appreciate it very much. I have not had an opportunity to meet you for for many years, but you will probably remember me as one of your doctors years ago when you were in Bismarck. I have always considered you as a good friend of mine.

Sincerely yours,

  
L. H. Fredricks, M.D.

LHF:d

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ered you as a good friend of mine.

Sincerely yours

L. H. Erdick, M.D.

already written new reply  
denying hearing McC.  
agree no evidence against  
warrant summary dismissal

RETURN IN 5 DAYS TO  
LOCK DRAWER No. 480

BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA

L. H. Fredricks, M.D.

AIR MAIL

SPECIAL DELIVERY.



Hon. Representative Usher L. Burdick,  
United States House of Representatives Building,  
Washington, D. C.

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Reg -

HJB

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