

Morningside Hospital,
Portland 16, Oregon,
January 10, 1955.

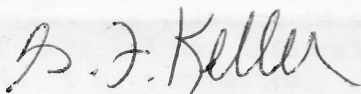
Honorable William C. Strand,
Director, Office of Territories,
U. S. Interior Department,
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Strand:

It is in connection with this type of material that the records are particularly poorly kept. I have tried and try to get as much biographical, sociological and all other kinds of statistical data on each patient as possible and have tried to keep it current, but have and do find it a difficult task. All this information should be further transmitted along to your office currently as it comes in, but I have found that an even more difficult task. Hence, it is not very current or accurate in either place. All the files could stand and should be gone over and brought up to date and new information passed along to your office and kept current. I have repeatedly spoken about and suggested this throughout the years. It is agreed to and promises are made, but nothing happens. Mrs. Mickelson begged off on it until after Miss Hagna was gone, after which she threatened to really go to town on it. Miss Hagna has been gone several years now, but Mrs. Mickelson has not gotten around to it yet. In the meanwhile, of course, she has been "promoted" and assigned other duties by her employers. Miss Celerio has halfheartedly agreed to it several times, but it always develops that she decides that she has too many more important things to do for someone else and thus does not have time for it. They do not seem to want to understand or be able to see the need for or the importance of this sort of thing either as far as the files here are concerned and perhaps even less so as far as your office might be interested. They are reluctant and passive about it. They act and make one feel as though they are being imposed upon when asked to assist with or do anything along these lines. One must hesitate to nag or apply a little pressure. Very little of that would hurt feelings and perhaps even produce tears and would be met with resistance and be an excuse to tell "Henry", who would like to come around and talk to you about it and subsequently tell someone about your disposition, personality, and inability to get along with people, after he had probably carefully planned it that way and instructed them along such lines. I should have someone at my beck and call at all times who would be interested in mine and the Department's part of the work and who would be able and willing to perform for us. That brings up once again the need for me to have my own secretary (civil service) with whom I could work and who would be interested, able and willing to co-operate with me or go ahead on her own with little direction or supervision to do this work and keep it up. Of course, a good social worker could do most of this, but she too would need some good clerical help. Several years ago one time when talking with Mr. Coe about the desirability and need for me to have a secretary of my own selection, he told me that anyone would be crazy who would think that he would agree to anything like that, namely paying someone he did not select and whom he would have no control over. Would you entrust them with handling correspondence in connection with repatriations, transfers to VA and other Government hospitals, residence or citizenship investigations to determine eligibility for transfer here, business with other Governmental officials or agencies or attorneys and guardians, answers to certain queries from your office, with the emigration office, and numerous other things that come up which only a representative of the Government can and should handle? Dr. Thompson is still carrying on his little

private correspondences. I wonder if it will continue to be necessary for mail which comes to me and which I reply to, regardless of what it may be, all subsequently being passed around for criticism and censorship and frequently supplementation? The latter certainly must create peculiar impressions with some people. You know, of course, when it started and who is responsible for it and why. I believe that the only way to handle such a situation is to arbitrarily call a halt to it. Some of these things should be strictly our business, to be handled as we see fit, without in any way being responsible to these people. In other words, exclusively in the interest of whomor whatsoever except them. Of course, they think and believe and insist that their interests come first, regardless of everyone and everything else at all times and under all circumstances. I cannot go along with that and hope that noone else does. As far as I am concerned, I will leave it there.

Sincerely yours,



George F. Keller, M. D.

P. S. I altered the address on the envelope after it had been otherwise prepared and inserted my own personal letter and took care of the sealing and stamping and mailing myself.

GFK