

2705 S. W. English Court,
Portland 1, Oregon,
January 14, 1955.

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

Dear Mr. Strand:

Thank you for both of your letters dated January 10, 1955. My last note to you apparently crossed in the mail with them. Everybody and everything here has been very calm, congenial and co-operative since the departure and during the absence of the masters. I believe that they are still in Washington. Except for what appeared to be a deliberate attempt to undermine and discredit me, I would not have been too concerned about their correspondence. Certainly, it could and no doubt has created misunderstanding, confusion and bad impressions with some people and agencies. I doubt if they were or are actually concerned about patients except to use it as an excuse. My first concern is the welfare of the patients and for them to pretend that they are more interested in them than I am is really stretching things. No doubt there would be some differences in the reasons for our interests in even the good and welfare of the patients. It is beyond me how they can and why they should want to try to promote the idea that I do not know as much or more about any patient here than anyone else, when in fact and actually I do. After all, that is part of my job and I keep myself informed about all patients and noone would know what I am doing better than I do. Wayne Coe started that idea when he found that he could not use me like he wanted to and has been trying to use it against me ever since. He does not give up hoping to find someone who will be gullible enough to believe him. On several occasions he has even tried to convince me. His failure to use me like he wanted to is costing him a doctor's salary and he refuses to be reconciled. He actually would like to have me take orders from him and work for him while the Government paid my salary. I do not think that he will give up trying to promote such an arrangement and keep on hoping that some time someone will accomodate him with an order to that effect. In fact, they and Thompson would like to switch us around, but otherwise keep us as we are. I will also never be forgiven for the increased costs to them incident to the changes and improvements which I was instrumental in bringing about. I should just have gone to work for him, left things as they were or even have let them go from bad to worse and liked it and said and done nothing. The only way this correspondence business can work is by being properly coordinated and even then it will probably not be good here, considering people, situation and circumstances. Presumably I will have access to copies of their letters providing they want me to see them. Anything I would dictate to one of their employees could not be kept from them. I will do the best I can to work out some kind of an arrangement with them. Barring unforeseen events, I will be on the job as usual during the week of January 24th. I hope that ample time will be allowed for whoever visits here and me to talk privately and for me to be able to show him and call his attention to people and things without interference. Might I be so bold as to inquire what you mean in your reference to changing the approach to the administration of the contract? It would be interesting to know what they had to say. I have no doubt that it was all slanted to suit their motives and interests and perhaps not too truthful. I appreciate your understanding and sentiment toward my position and welfare of the patients. As I said before, I will endeavor to do the best I can in connection with everything that may be required or necessary. Sincerely yours,

B. F. Keller