

2705 S. W. English Court,  
Portland 1, Oregon,  
February 22, 1955.

Mr. Anthony T. Lausi,  
Office of Territories,  
U. S. Interior Department,  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Lausi:

I trust that you realize that a little fast dealing took place in connection with the case that was admitted the other day. I hope that you will appreciate our side of the story. I would not feel right if I did not tell you about it as I think you should know. Here is the story as I know it and have pieced it together. At about 2.15 P. M., on Tuesday, February 15, 1955, I saw a car drive up in front with a man and two women in it. The man got out and came in and talked to Miss Celerio. Dr. Thompson was in my room at the time. Miss Celerio came in and told Dr. Thompson that a patient from Alaska had arrived. Dr. Thompson stepped out and talked to the man briefly and then took him over to his office. After quite some time I saw the man come back and sit in the car with the women. Then I saw Henry Coe go over to Dr. Thompson's office. About the time Dr. Thompson left my office a contact man from the VA regional office came to see me about some veteran patients and I was busy with him for nearly the rest of the afternoon. Miss Celerio came in later and I asked her what had happened to the Alaska patient and she stated that they did not have any papers. On Wednesday morning I asked Dr. Thompson what had happened to the case and he stated that they had taken her back to Seattle and would have her committed there. He went on to tell me that she and her husband had gone to Alaska from Spokane about two years ago and that her husband was now in Alaska, but that she had recently come to Seattle for treatment. There she had two married sons. There she landed in the King County Hospital where she was not eligible. She was discharged from there and a doctor told them to take her to Morningside. They were also supposed to have been told that she could not be committed in Washington. On Tuesday afternoon Henry Coe and/or Dr. Thompson called Judge Dickson and asked him to commit her. He told them to call back at ten o'clock on Wednesday morning. I believe they also talked to his special agent, Mr. Swan. They also called the Secretary of the State Board of Control at Salem on Tuesday afternoon. Between the two they tried to arrange committment and immediate admission. On Wednesday morning Judge Dickson was again called and he reluctantly agreed to handle the case. Then the Secretary of the State Board of Control was again called and told that he should hold out for her to come directly to Morningside. I did not know all this yet and it was subsequently told to me by either Henry Coe or Dr. Thompson when close to noon on Wednesday Henry Coe came to me and wanted to talk about making some kind of an arrangement with Judge Dickson and the Secretary of the State Board of Control whereby Alaskans could be committed here and admitted directly to Morningside. I told him that according to law people could be committed directly to Morningside only from Alaska and that otherwise they would have to be committed to state hospitals and subsequently transferred here by arrangement with us. He wanted to know whom to write to in Washington about this and I suggested that he write to Mr. Strand. He stated that he thought that he would rather write to Mr. Lewis. I heard nothing more about it until after lunch when he wildly and excitedly came tearing into my room and told me to get on the telephone that Mr. Lausi wanted to talk to me from Washington. He stayed and listened until my conversation didn't seem to suit him when he tore back to his own room and got on the telephone there. You know the rest of that. Dr. Thompson had earlier told me that the case was not exactly an emergency. I do not know what Henry Coe told you, but it must have been considerably exaggerated

because the part of it that I heard was. Anyhow, he got your approval for her to remain here or to come here directly after committment without being taken to an Oregon State Hospital first and transferred back here later after I investigated her residence status and the Director's office approved her acceptance as should have been done. I do not know if she was taken back to Seattle or if they camped in Portland Tuesday night, but she was brought back to Morningside at 5.50 P. M., on Wednesday, February 16, 1955 and has been there since. Somewhere along the line last week I called Mr. Swan and asked him for when her hearing had been set and he told me that it had been set for Yesterday, Monday, February 21, 1955. He also stated that he wanted to talk to me about that situation some time. From Wednesday until Monday she was kept as a "hold-over" and I do not know who paid the bill. They also arranged for her not to be taken to the court house for the hearing and instead two doctors came out from town to examine her. On Friday Henry Coe came to me and directed me to write to the Secretary of the State Board of Control to advise him that I would accept her here directly since you had so ordered it. Our notes must have crossed in the mail because on Monday morning (Yesterday) I had a note from him authorizing me to accept her directly. So Henry Coe and Dr. Thompson must have done a lot of over my head and behind my back telephoning and arranging. She was committed yesterday and was admitted officially on the Department's bill as of February 21, 1955. As I previously stated she has been there since last Wednesday. She is not psychotic in the true sense of the word, but is a severe psychoneurotic. She had an ear operation in Spokane several years ago and since then has had a buzzing in her head. As a result of this she has become a whimpering, trembling hysteric who protests that if she cannot get well she would rather be dead. The doctors who examined her recognized this and recommended hospitalization for treatment for this, but not because she was psychotic (insane). I can go along with the idea that she needed hospitalization and might remotely be suicidal, but she is not psychotic (insane). I doubt if she will ever be any different. These cases are hard to treat, seldom are hospitalized, and usually go through life that way. They are neurotic cripples and a burdon on their family. A copy of her committment papers was promptly gotten out here yesterday. I would say that the boys pulled a fast one and put it over. They used you to rub it in on me. I do not think that Judge Dickson and Mr. Swan will be too eager to go along with much more of this. I do not think that you should let this become a precedent. It would have a tendency to let the bars down and throw the doors wide open. That is as they would like to have it. They would even get the word out. They are after business and money. I am sure that out solicitor will interpret the law properly. I would like to suggest that you write to Mr. E. J. Ireland, Secretary, Oregon State Board of Control, Salem, Oregon, and to Judge William Dickson or Mr. Swan, Probate Court, Multnomah County Court House, Portland, Oregon, about any arrangements in connection with future cases of this kind. I am sorry that I had to be so long winded and circumstantial, but it was about the only way in which I could tell the story. There is probably much that I do not even know, but I am telling you what I saw, heard or was told.

With best wishes and personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

*G. F. Keller*

George F. Keller, M. D.

P. S.

I examined the patient myself on Friday. According to them I probably did not have any right or business officially to do so before she was on the Department's bill. I knew what the score was, but that did not or could not alter matters. I have a suspicion that you heard about a silly little incident that happened while the auditors were here and out of which they really tried to make capital. Needless to say it was exaggerated and distorted beyond recognition. If you have any idea what I may be referring to I wish that you would tell me about it. I would like to give you the straight of it. Henry is really strutting lately.