

2705 S. W. English Court,
Portland 1, Oregon,
September 25, 1955.

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

Dear Mr. Lausi:

I was pleased to see Messrs. Coulter and Junge.

Replying to paragraph number two of your letter of August 24, 1955, I wish to state that I have at all times since I have been here made a special effort to move all patients either by transfer, parole or discharge as soon as possible, consistent with good medical and psychiatric judgement, opportunity for placement, or whatever else is necessary for the proper disposition of a patient. As you may well know, arranging for transfer or finding a suitable place to parole or discharge a patient to, frequently is not an easy matter for me to accomplish. Right now I am working on at least a dozen cases, some of whom I may not be able to find a place to send to. As you also know, many who are paroled or discharged are bounced right back because nobody wants to bother with them or people do not understand them or they are afraid of them or their illness recurs or they find it difficult to adjust or whatever the case might be. I might also state that some pretended assistance that has come from here recently has been and is impossible for me to accept on a practical and realistic basis. As I have told you before, it is designed to give me trouble and put me on the spot, so it can be said that they recommended someone for parole or discharge and that I would not or could not do anything about it. I will cite you a case in point, namely that of Harry Kaufman and enclose one of his letters for evidence. For some time now, Dr. Thompson has been pushing for his parole. If you will look into his file in your office you will find out more about him. That man might kill someone and his relatives are scared of death of him. I might also add that sometimes Dr. Thompson's psychiatric judgement is not very mature or experienced, unless it might be something else. Most other cases on his list fall into similar categories. Ultimately, my judgement should be final and it should not be necessary for me to defend myself.

Replying to paragraph number three of your letter of August 24, 1955, I wish to state that I explained to Messrs. Coulter and Junge that I had hoped and planned to use these reports to bring the records on all cases up to date, starting at the beginning, realizing how meager and scanty information in the files of most cases in your office must be and particularly on those who were here before my time. I am sorry that I guessed wrong and that my good intentions went astray. Everything else was and is being handled on a routine, current basis by me, as my other reports and correspondences should have indicated. I also personally saw and examined all the patients I reported on for this special occasion either in my office or on the ward along with all the rest of them that I see every day. If you have received any contrary information it is not true. A doctor's work is very variable and his mode of operation must be permitted flexibility and use of his own judgement based on his education, training, experience and ability. It would be quite impractical to try to make it conform in detail to rules laid down by others. That is why doctors do not care for socialization or regimentation. I certainly do not intend to or would not submit to anything that would serve the

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ulterior motives and purposes of the Coes even indirectly. I want to assure you that I am now and have always been working on all cases where there is even a remote possibility to effect their release some time. I derive great satisfaction from getting one off the board bill now and then and it usually is not easy. I believe that I am supposed to be the contract inspector or supervisor. I desire your confidence and support rather than criticism. To continue, I might state that degree of improvement or regression cannot be measured by any yardstick or rule of thumb, but is a matter of professional judgement based on knowledge and experience. I have been a doctor since 1927 and a psychiatrist since 1929. A description of the types of treatment currently being given in detail could become burdensome. Treatment here now is the best that it has ever been and is quite satisfactory and I made it so. I would soon speak up if it were not. Doctors are by nature individualists and I do have some confidence in some of the doctors here like Doctors Dowling and Swancutt and most of the other men to whom certain special things are referred from time to time. Even Doctor Thompson's faults do not lie altogether in his medical and psychiatric ability. The weakest link in the chain is the psychiatric consultant, but if you knew the facts you would realize that he serves a political and prestige purpose for his four one hundred dollar per month visits. This reminds me that beginning October 15th Doctor Thompson is going to start a one year residency in neurology at the Veterans Hospital here. He will spend five days a week there. I understand that he will receive pay from the Government for that. He intends to take care of his Morningside job in his spare time. After that he intends to go away for several years to complete his training in psychiatry. That could not be obtained in Portland. He does not intend to sever his connections and relations with the Coes and Morningside and intends to return there. Eventually, if and when a Morningside job for him may no longer exist, he intends to do private practice here in Portland. They have already advertised through every known professional agency and appropriate publication and have written dozens of letters to various psychiatric hospitals during the past several months in an effort to get someone to relieve him on a two and a half year temporary basis while he goes away to complete his training, but so far they have found no takers. The nearest that they have come to anything so far is a young fellow who just came to town to set up in private practice whom they are trying to get for several half days per week or on a part time basis, but who is not particularly interested. Returning to our subject matter, I might state that we use the words treatment and therapy synonymously. I attempted to give descriptions of other disabilities by listing diagnoses, but could elaborate a little more if necessary. I will admit that some of the information in my reports was taken from the records. It is my impression that that is at least partly what records are for, particularly as applied to physical examination, laboratory, consultation and every other kind of examination or whatever else other kind of report or information. If I were to do all that they would not need anyone else around here, but I would need my own complete staff. That is not and would not be a one man job. I have been a psychiatrist for nearly thirty years and could not and should not be expected to do medical student or intern or resident work or remain a proficient general practitioner or to be qualified in every other specialty in medicine. That is not expected of superintendents or men in supervisory or administrative positions in other hospitals. That is why this place and setup is unique and all wrong. Again, I see some dirty work under cover on the part of an individual or several with ulterior motives and purposes designed to undermine and discredit me and to make things so difficult and disagreeable that it would be impossible to submit to. If you would go along with that and then instead of supporting me, I would certainly be placed in a most difficult position. I would prefer to supervise and inspect them, rather than to flunk for them.

Referring to Mr. Strand's letter of April 1, 1955, I will state that it caused me no small amount of concern. I have actually been unhappy about it and have worried about it. I have figured long and hard how to comply with and accomplish what is requested therein in this situation and under these circumstances. As you might know, I can expect little co-operation from here and have not received much. It looked like an impossible assignment considering what I had to work with and what co-operation would be forthcoming. It actually looked as if I would need my own complete staff in order to get the job done. This is still not far from the truth. The reports which I have submitted to you so far have been my desperate effort to comply with the instructions. To say the least, it has been most frustrating and has presented an almost intolerable situation. It is hardly a one man job. I would not dare say that it has angered and peevd me a trifle. It has delighted Henry Coe and Mrs. Dorothy Mickelson to make it just as difficult as possible and practically impossible for me to perform and try to carry it out. In fact, as I have told you before, the best thing these two people do is to try to sabotage my efforts in everything I attempt to do or am supposed to do. I have told you what instructions they give to the girls and what the girls have to do in order to spare their own necks. Miss Celorie and Mrs. Blake, of course, are willing tools and stool-pigeons. Another one who quit was too. Mrs. Sherman got fired because she made a slip and brought a letter to me to sign before she had taken it to them for censorship. Mrs. Dunson is scared to death that she might get fired if she makes a false move. Every time I call for a girl Mrs. Mickelson has to be told by the one who answers the phone when I buzz and she decides which one should come in at that time. When she is not there Miss Celorie substitutes for her and sends in one of the other two. Sometimes Mrs. Blake or Mrs. Dunson answer the phone instead of Miss Celorie depending on who is not there or who happens to be sitting at which desk in which room at which time, but regardless of which one answers the phone, they have to clear it with Mrs. Mickelson or Miss Celorie or Mrs. Blake or Henry Coe depending on who is in charge by virtue of seniority at the moment. Mrs. Dunson is at the bottom of the pile. Some times they have to hold a conference between Mrs. Mickelson and/or Miss Celorie and/or Mrs. Blake or all of them and which some times includes Henry Coe in order to decide who is to come in to help me. Mrs. Mickelson, Miss Celorie and Mrs. Blake are full time and that is the order of their rank. Mrs. Dunson only works three days a week and is not actually a member of the circle. Seldom does the same one come in twice in succession. Mrs. Dunson is the best of the lot, but she counts the least among them. I would like to have her at all times, but that is the reason why I seldom get her. I would like to have someone like her supplied to me by the Department. She previously has had eight years of experience in Government work. Every time I want to do something I have to show another one how to do it even though several others know how because I had previously taught them. That makes another good game. Henry Coe and Mrs. Mickelson have made a mess and a farce out of this place. Nothing could be more petty and childish and still less malicious and disgusting. The undercurrents and tensions around the place are terrific and the morale is as low as it can get on account of them and probably several others. They would say that it is on account of me. They are about as popular as skunks with most of the rest of the employees. Returning to the reports, in that manner did I have to try to struggle through with them. I tried to do them in such a way that I could get the job done after a fashion the way I had to do it and what I had to work with. This accounts for some of the sloppy stuff which I have had to send in to you. This work would not lend itself to a dictaphone at all. While Miss Celorie was on vacation for a week recently Mrs. Mickelson brought one of her friends along to fill in for her. She was'nt worth a darn, but I had to use her all that week and show her how to do everything even though all the rest of them would have known how to do what I wanted to do like making out the form 130833 reports and the like. I was on the verge of "giving myself up". If you do not think that this is all done with malice

aforethought, in spite of Henry Coe's hypocritical and holy protestations to the contrary, then I am all wet. I am not such a good liar. That is why the Coes do not want me to have my own stenographer or a filing cabinet that they could not get into. Give me a stenographer and I will be able to do a real job for you. That is all I ask. She would more than make her salary by making it easier for me to collect names and addresses of relatives to try to collect from, move patients, turn out decent letters and reports and whatever else. As it is I would be compelled to try to struggle along as I have had to do and it would or will not be good. The future would not look very bright. There is also a limit to what one is willing and able to take without trying to do something else about it. I certainly have done my best to try to co-operate. This ultimately amounts to being made a fool of. I believe that the Coes have tried to make a fool of me and us just about long enough from where I am looking. So far they have gotten by it at least in part. I hope that you see through them and are not being taken in by them. I have a feeling that they write you letters and call you on the telephone behind my back. I also know or have an idea what they have told or try to tell you and others. At best it would be a lot of backstabbing, throatcutting exaggerations, distortions, innuendos, half-truths and lies. They want me out of here and not replaced. They want my job abolished. Anyone else in my place would be no better off unless he played footsie with them. They think that I am the cause of all their troubles and that if they got rid of me all their troubles would be over. At least, so Mrs. Mickelson told Mrs. Dunson. That is a good joke too. She also told her, that I did not know it, but that I was going to be investigated. I am wondering what I have been getting. I don't see why I should be persecuted and crucified for having done what I did to help get the improvements which they have had to make even though they don't like it and are trying to do me dirt for it. I would be willing to settle for even my own part-time stenographer, although I could keep one busy full time if I had one and could do all the things I would like to and should do.

I wonder how things will look when the audit is completed.

I am sorry that I have been unable to submit some kind of a report for August and September yet. As you know I was on leave for three weeks during the latter half of August and the early part of September. Upon my return it took me several days to sort out everything on my desk, check reports, answer letters and what not. I dictated about fifty letters during my first week back, most of which were not typed until about a week later and dated at that time. I have been very busy with many other things, including auditors, inspectors, visitors and the like. I shall try to come up with something in the near future. In the meantime I ask your indulgence, hope that our relationship will continue amiably and trust that you will be able to do something about my needs. I certainly will be more than willing to co-operate and try to do my part.

With best wishes and personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

G. F. Keller
George F. Keller, M. D.