

4004 S. E. Pine Street,  
Portland 15, Oregon,  
October 13, 1951.

Mr. Jos. T. Flakne,  
Chief Alaska Division,  
Office of Territories,  
U. S. Interior Department,  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Flakne:

It was good to see you and talk with you recently. You saw first hand how the children are housed and cared for. You also saw the patient's dining room and the female tuberculosis ward. I believe you also noticed the sleeping porch like parts of the male wards number one and two which I mentioned to you.

Dr. Thompson informs me that Mr. Coe has plans for some kind of a day time play room for the children, also for a wing off the female infirmary for the female tuberculosis patients, and something to improve the looks of the patient's dining room. He also stated that all this will have to wait until after Mr. Coe gets his next contract because there is no money available for it now. Apparently, there is money available for remodeling Dr. Thompson's and Mr. Lazelle's houses and travel and everything else which you also know about. I know that you also noticed the contrasting elegance of the appointments of Dr. Thompson's office. Of course, Mr. Coe has mentioned to me in a casual way some future plans for the female tuberculosis patients and the patient's eating environment, but Dr. Thompson speaks very authoritatively. The day time play room for the children is something new, but as far as I am concerned it would not meet the basic needs of the situation by itself and would merely again be a substitute at a lesser immediate and future cost for what is actually wanted and needed. It again would merely be show stuff to impress the casual and uncritical observer. Remember, Mr. Lazelle's house was originally built for and intended to be for the children some years ago.

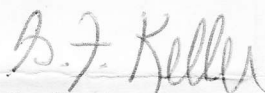
I was in error when I told you that the current contract expires in 1952. It will not expire until June 30, 1953. With the latter in mind, I did not think that there was any urgency about any specific report from me at this time. I have thought about and planned to present a few ideas in connection with the next contract as I mentioned to you, but did not want to be in any hurry about it. I wanted to think things through and out carefully and present my views in due time. Knowing how Coe and Company receive such things, it is almost necessary to make allowance for inhibitions on my part. I believe that it would be a great help to me if you would give me a definite idea as to just what you need or want in such a report. Many things have been changed and improved as you know. These have previously been mentioned or written about. However, I shall do my best to provide you with some kind of a report in the near future. Might I inquire what plans are being discussed as you mentioned in your letter of October 8, 1951? I believe that from here on out things are going to be more difficult to get because Mr. Coe and Dr. Thompson think that this is it. They had to come up to what we have now, they had no other choice, but now they seem to be satisfied and will be very reluctant to do anything more, particularly anything involving more cost. They have ever ready arguments and excuses for everything.

You know about the farm produce and stock sales and labor costs. The patients are not fed and clothed well. I think that all the side lines detract some from the care and treatment of the Alaskans. The "I and we" part of the help, including what is supposed to be my secretary, are not easily managed. Of course, they have all been well indoctrinated by their "boss" and all are capable of improving on their instructions. I recently had a letter from a discharged patient in which he told me to give his regards to "that slave driver Lazelle". I would have to be very careful about what I stated in any report which could be seen or read here because along with results to be accomplished unpleasantness would be inevitable. Remember, Mr. Coe told me one time that "they did not need anybody to blow up their noses around here". I have to live with these people. I believe that I have done well considering the situation, circumstances and personalities. Our medical and psychiatric care is reasonably good considering what we have to work with. We need a dietitian and a social worker (psychiatric), but on Coe's payroll they would not be very effective.

I believe that this is all that I need to mention at this time. You will hear from me again in the near future.

With best wishes and personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,



G. F. Keller, M. D.