

2705 S. W. English Court,
Portland 1, Oregon,
November 20, 1954.

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

Dear Mr. Strand:

At this time I would like to record my impressions and comments by way of setting the record straight in connection with the mental health section of the Parran report. It is interesting to be reminded that way back in 1909 the original owner of Morningside managed to get legislation passed such as he did and that since 1915 they have had no competition and the terms of the contracts have been arrived at by negotiation. As pertains to Morningside the findings of the Overholser report continue on the whole and its recommendations with reference to the same are still quite appropriate. According to the Medical Director of the American Psychiatric Association the last contract paid about twice more than it was worth and under the present one this has even been substantially increased. Any future bills should not prohibit changes in the present contract and should not restrict future contracts to any favored geographical area. There have been some changes and improvements made since both the Overholser and Schumacher reports were submitted, but much remains lacking and to be desired. At this time one of the two young physicians mentioned in paragraph 2, page VI-62 is no longer here. Ward attendants referred to in paragraph 4 of the same page are frequently inexperienced or poorly trained and usually in short supply. If their work schedule is now considered to be unusual, it might be stated that until quite recently they worked twelve hours six days a week and some times even seven. The children's building mentioned in the first paragraph of page VI-63 is already overcrowded and overflowing. The food as described in section 4, page VI-63 should be rated even lower than that. The dentist referred to in the former section and page comes and works a little while two evenings a month and does not do much more than a limited amount of extracting. The dental equipment is described quite accurately. The occupational therapy department described in this same section and page now has two therapists, one student, and six attendants. The present head therapist has resigned effective December 31, 1954. I would insert the word some between the words even and patients in paragraph 4, section 4, page VI-63. In the following paragraph I would question if patients have much preference. The word occupational should be inserted between the words industrial and therapy to conform exactly to the way in which the term is used here. I would question that patients are never pressured. The building for tuberculous women described on page VI-64 probably is worse than it sounds there. The Portland specialist mentioned in this same paragraph visits for a short period one afternoon per month. I understand that the feeble minded infants and children admitted here technically do not come under the law and that sending them here committed as insane amounts to getting them here by subterfuge. The secretarial, stenographic or clerical help which according to the terms of the contract is supposed to be provided by the company for the Department Medical Officer has never been satisfactory to him. Referring to section 5, page VI-64, I do not off hand recall admitting any active military personell or dependents, but certainly quite a few transients are sent to Morningside. In connection with discharge and parole mentioned on page VI-65, I might state that this has been made the responsibility of the Government medical officer and is not an easy assignment for various reasons beyond and in addition to those mentioned in the report. Restraint has not been uncommon and there have been elopements. Except for the presence of and insistance against it by the undersigned there would be more restraint employed here. Paragraph 4, section 6, page VI-65 is much open to question in many ways and for many reasons, parti-

cularly as it was apparently told rather than it usually is. Consultants are mainly fee basis and employed not more often than absolutely necessary. I believe that figures on the cost of operation should be made available and that cost plus ten percent would be adequate financing and a fair profit. The profits apparently have been and are excessive. I would say that the Morningside management and certain personell are very reluctant and resistant toward accepting supervision and guidance except perhaps to pretend to be otherwise on special occassions and in special situations and circumstances like when visited by the authors of the report. That might also apply to their apparent desire to do a good job at such times. I heartily agree with the reference in the report that the owners apparently having profited substantially from their too long contract can well afford to upgrade their plant and its services without financial hardship. I believe that Alaska needs and should have its own mental hospital as soon as possible. I agree with the Overholser report that the "fundamental principle of contract care in proprietary institutions is wrong. It has long been outmoded in the United States. . .It is subject to criticism on sound humanitarian grounds." I do not agree with the first sentence of section 5, page VI-67. with the rest of the section on that same page and as it is continued on the top of page VI-68, I agree wholeheartedly and particularly with that part which refers to the "sale of farm products (pork, raspberries, rhubarb, spinach, cauliflower, etc.), produced and processed to a large extent by patient labor, have benefitted the owners rather than the patients". I agree with the recommendation under section 6, page VI-68, except that a nutritionist mentioned under paragraph (b.) should be employed by the Government to inspect and supervise everything mentioned thereand particularly the quality of the food. That would make her job comparable to that of the undersigned with special reference to the food service. A nutritionist employed by the owners would have to do as they told her or else, particularly with reference to the buying of the food, and it would be no better then than it is now. I cannot imagine any high grade, self-respecting nutritionist submitting to or working under such circumstances or be able to do a worthwhile job if she did. The same would apply to a psychiatric social worker mentioned in paragraph (c.), section, page VI-68. I know that one would not be welcomed here by anyone except me. She could not be company employed and be able to do an effective job. She would be able to do a better job if she were placed here by a Government agency and even then would not get much co-operation here particularly with reference to office space and assistance and the like. I have performed any social work functions which have been carried on here to date since my coming here along with all my other work and duties and always with only insufficient and reluctant company stenographic and clerical help when it was available atall. Otherwise, little or none would have been done. Recently, and apparently as a part of their planto eliminate my position and me, Dr. Thompson, at the suggestion of the Coes is trying to take this over, instead of devoting more time to and paying more attention to taking care of the patients and his other duties and other things which he should be doing, more of, such as making ward rounds more often, doing more psychotherapy with patients, administering the electric shock treatments, and the like. He has practically delegated all the work which he should be doing to Dr. Dowling and the medical student and does not have much more to do or does much more than with the connivance of the Coes try to make it disagreeable for me. I can frankly and honestly state that none of the items mentioned under section 6, page VI-68 are wanted here, particularly not by the owners, and that they will be most reluctant and resistant by way of co-operating. In the event that they can be made to employ some of these people, I do not think that it should be necessary for the Government to reimburse them additionally. Dr. Thompson might like to have another assistant, in which event he probably would not do anything except more things which he is not supposed to do, such as take more time off, try to be a bigger administrator, replace me if he could, help junior more with public relations and publicity, and the like. I cannot imagine any psychiatrist who could or would work with him and much less under him very long. He was grossly overrated and built up in the report. I question both his ability and devotion except in his loyalty to

his employers and to himself. He lacks training, experience, some knowledge, mature judgement, and the like. His personality leaves much to be desired. He is an eager and aggressive tool for his employers and as such serves his best and most useful purpose, at least as far as I am concerned. As far as I am concerned he is expendable and except for certain qualities which he possesses which are most useful and valuable to his employers, he could easily be replaced. Nevertheless, he must have impressed Dr. Tallman. Most of what I have said about Dr. Thompson could well be applied to the entire inner circle group. At least, the Morningside part of the report, is superficial and elementary. It shows lack of information and lack of ability to properly and correctly evaluate and analyze the people and the situation. It reflects much mis-information or what they were told and lead to believe or what someone wanted them to write. Some of it amounts to either gullibility or prejudice on their part. I could go so far as to say that they were taken in and sold a bill of goods. I could assume that they were even and actually duped and hoodwinked into their conception of and their reaction to my position and undoubtedly to me personally. In taking one more look at the report the following thoughts present themselves. In section 1., page VI-62, we will pass over the management and ownership, but will state that the male assistant probably is poorly educated, had no training or experience for his job even such as he is, and is a former Morningside patient. The female assistant was originally hired at Morningside as a cook. She came there from an Iowa combination feeble minded school and epileptic colony where she had been second cook. At Morningside she has become "matron" and according to their setup is over the registered nurses. One more look at paragraph 1, section 2, page VI-62, again suggests the thought that the "psychiatrist" is trying to relieve himself of his regular work and duties and is hoping for and looking toward bigger and better possibilities. Paragraph 2, section 2, page VI-62, is vague, indefinite and ambiguous and I might add inaccurate particularly as applied to the first sentence. It could create false impressions and misconceptions and is probably intended to do so. If I did not examine and interview patients, how would I know their correct diagnosis and keep informed about their progress or know that they are receiving the right treatment or know when they might be ready for parole or discharge and whatever else? In section 3, page VI-62, I want to call attention to the fact that Morningside is approved for only 365 beds by the Oregon State Health Department. Referring to section 6, paragraph (a.), page VI-68, I might state that such a competent psychiatric nurse should probably be placed here by the Government; paragraph (d.), I might state that thru my efforts we have a satisfactory fee basis clinical psychologist, but they are reluctant about his time on account of cost even though his rates are minimum to them; paragraph (g.), I arranged for the teacher. A report from her would be enlightening. Paragraph (b.), page VI-69, occassional inspections with ample notice would be just fine; then everything could be set up for the occassion; everything could be cleaned and shined up spic and span and be in perfect order; everybody could be busy and working; a little special food could be prepared and served; the children could be arranged in sham play with more toys and equipment around than usual; the patients working reduced to a minimum and arduous and hazardous work like digging basements even under buildings interrupted; special entertainment or recreational projects could be set up for the occassion; what they didn't want seen could be passed by; everything could be window dressed for the sales talk, etc. There would be nobody around to watch for carelessness, negligence, mistreatment or abuse; to see the routine food; to observe the routine clothing, cleanliness and care of patients; to see some of the work patients do like digging holes, construction labor and the like; to learn about and report accidents and injuries to patients such as having fingers and noses cut off; to know that the patients are correctly diagnosed and properly treated; to ask questions and offer suggestions and make recommendations; to check on patients' funds and accounts and the bill; to know the causes of deaths; to be on the lookout for patients feasible for parole or discharge; to observe and report on the fulfillment of the contract; to observe the sale of pork and other produce; and too many other things too numerous to immediately think of and remember, much less to enumerate. I will shortly write you my impression of the contract and H. R. 8009.

Sincerely yours,

G. F. Keller
George F. Keller