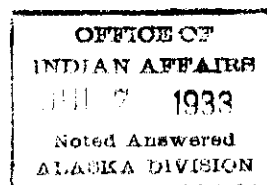


UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

FIELD SERVICE
Juneau, Alaska
June 29, 1933



Mr. John Collier
Commissioner of Indian Affairs
Alaska Division
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Collier:

In September, 1930, three Alaska native children were transferred from the Riverton Hospital, Seattle, to Morningside Hospital, Portland, Oregon. These children were all tuberculous but none of them were mental cases. A special room has been fitted up for their care, and they are segregated from the other inmates of this institution. In April, 1933, one of the children died so that at present we have only two children there.

For some time the American Legion Auxiliary, both Alaskan and National, have been interested in removing these children from Morningside Hospital. In August, 1932, as the result of some criticisms received concerning the hospitalization of these children, I visited Morningside Hospital and was well pleased with the care given to them and could see no reason for their transferral.

During the time that I was in Washington, Dr. Ryan received a letter from Miss Emma C. Puschner, Director of the National Child Welfare Division American Legion Auxiliary, in which a copy of a letter from Mrs. Elaine Talbot of Ketchikan was inclosed. This letter from Mrs. Talbot was, in general, a criticism of the work being done at Morningside Hospital, and specifically criticised the hospitalization of tuberculous patients in this institution. In a memorandum to Dr. Ryan, written at Washington, D. C., December 5, 1932, I replied to several of the criticisms voiced by Mrs. Talbot. On January 23, 1933, Dr. Ryan replied to Mrs. Talbot, copy inclosed, and in this reply quoted parts of my memorandum. I did not expect that this memorandum would be quoted to Mrs. Talbot for it has evidently only served to strengthen her idea that I am not interested in having any outside organizations aid us in our work.

I understand that a few months ago Miss Edith Chapman, Field Secretary of the Child Welfare Bureau of the American Legion, visited Morningside Hospital with Dr. Leslie A. White now in our Service at Metlakatla. Presumably an adverse report was rendered by Miss Chapman against the further care of the two tuberculous children at Morningside. I have consulted Dr. White both personally and by letter and he has stated that they are probably as well off at Morningside as they would be at any other institution.

June 29, 1933

Shortly after the visit of Miss Chapman to Morningside the local Child Welfare Committee of the American Legion called upon me for an explanation of why these children were being kept at Morningside. A conference was had with Governor Troy and it was ~~practically~~ agreed that the local unit would not make a formal protest concerning the care of these children. I am not sure, however, that the Ketchikan Chapter or that the National headquarters will do likewise. Information is, therefore, requested as to whether or not any correspondence has been received at the Washington office concerning these children. I should also like the opinion of the Washington office as to whether or not we should transfer these patients from Morningside before a protest is lodged by the interested organizations, or whether we should await developments and transfer the children later on if necessary.

In closing I might state that it is my personal opinion that these children should be left at Morningside.

Very truly yours,



F. S. Fellows
Medical Director
Alaska Medical Service

Incl - 1
CC to Dr. Weldon
FF/KS