

2705 S. W. English Court,
Portland 1, Oregon,
January 19, 1955.

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

Dear Mr. Strand:

This will have reference to Mr. Coe's letter to me of January 12, 1955, of which you have a copy and his letter to you of the same date of which I have a copy. Interestingly enough, the former one which was sent by ordinary mail was on my desk last Monday morning, whereas the latter one sent by air mail arrived today. I do not quite understand this difference in transmittal and there must have been a reason for the timing. I had not planned on replying to or commenting on Mr. Coe's letter regarding the clothing, but instead was going to let things take their course. Upon receipt of the latter letter however, I feel impelled to reply to and comment on both of them. I will frankly admit that there are many things in that contract which are not altogether clear to me and which I might have been or may be unable to interpret accurately. Apparently I will need some enlightenment and the contract some clarification for me by someone. It seems as if Mr. Coe cannot lose and can interpret everything that may come up in his own favor at all times. He really did or had a clever job done for himself and sold it in that contract. I did not interpret that part of section 21 of the contract as it pertains to clothing to imply that finding a suitable coat for a patient, for instance, was immediately, personally and physically a part of my job. If so, I do not hesitate to state that I do not appreciate it and hope that some changes may be made. I hate to think that the Government has been hoaxed all these years. I will state that I have some times overlooked things a little in order to avoid difference of opinion, argument or resentment. It could be that I will have to take a firmer stand in connection with this clothing matter hereafter.

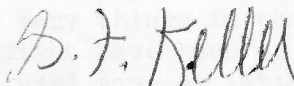
I do not follow the reference, "In Washington all goes along about as You recently described", in his letter to me, at all. It was apparently intended to arouse suspicion or doubt in someone's mind.

Now, in regard to the letter to you about the things which I was supposed to have removed from the patients' charts. Actually, none of these letters were removed from any charts. I merely saved them up as they appeared in the box on my desk or on second thought took them back from the box where I put material to be filed before somebody got around to file them. I do not believe or agree that the patients' records are exclusively Mr. Coe's property, but that we share an equal right in them and that if I may want to send something out of them to you for you to see, to be returned of course, or if I send you something that you may ask for, there should be no objection on their part. Of course, I can request them to make copies of things for us for that purpose. The reason I did what I did as I did it was to avoid unpleasantness at the beginning, knowing full well that it would probably be inevitable in the end. I knew that they were keeping an eye on those letters, because their guilt feelings would cause them to suspect or expect that I would send some of them to you. So I did what they suspected or expected me to do, know that they would know or find it out, and knowing also what their reaction would be. I would question Mr. Coe's use of the word authorization in his letter to you. I certainly will not ask their permission to send you copies of anything I may want you to see or know about or anything you may ask for, correspondence about pending admissions, and the like.

Mr. Henry Coe returned to the hospital late this afternoon, but he did not come in to see me. The letters have not been given to me yet. If and when they are presented I will suggest that they file them. I am not Mr. Coe's file clerk, nor do I want to be anything else which he or they might like to make of me. The only thing I want to be as far as he and his are concerned is what I am supposed to be in my relationship with them. I do not consider what I did an indiscretion at all, but merely something which I had a perfect right to do under the circumstances. I do not entertain the least bit of guilt or remorse. To me his reference to his office staff not knowing about this is an absurdity. There is no such a thing around here. What one knows, they all know. Ultimately, I cannot see what difference his office staff would or should make to us or that it would make any difference to them or that they would even care. If one could get an honest, fearless opinion from any of them, some of them at least, would agree and be all for it. Actually, Coe does not feel as badly as he pretends or as he would like to make it appear. I would resent any implication of thievery coming from them.

Thanking you for your usual interest and sympathetic understanding, I am

Sincerely yours,



George F. Keller, M. D.