

2705 S. W. English Court,
Portland 1, Oregon,
January 21, 1955.

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

Dear Mr. Strand:

At the close of business today I had not received further word from you about next week's visitors. The Coes were both around part of Yesterday and today, and I had several casual conversations with both of them, mainly at lunch. They did not have much to say and generally seem to be somewhat disappointed with their trip. I tried to feel them out about the correspondence, but they indicated that this would have to be worked out when whoever is coming arrives. Nothing has been said about the letters they brought back, nor have I been presented with them. It is just as well and perhaps even better that way. That is as I expected it to be and I hope it remains that way. I believe the letter was written mainly for effect.

Yesterday afternoon I was permitted to read a copy of their letter to you about additional personnel and the like. What struck me most of all was the salaries they quoted. These are all about double of what they would actually be. I assume that they mean Doctor Dowling when they speak of paying their assistant physician fifteen thousand dollars a year. I doubt, of course, that this is true, but on that basis, I wonder what they would claim that they are paying Doctor Thompson. What they actually get cannot be found out.

Yesterday afternoon I was also allowed to read at least four page identical letters to Senator Neuberger and Congresswoman Green. These were followups on conversations which they had had with them while in Washington. The letters were very critical of previous mental health bills for Alaska. Along with the letters they submitted their own version of a mental health bill for Alaska to be introduced both in the Senate and House by Senator Neuberger and Congresswoman Green. You may already know about this, but in the event that you do not, I thought that it might interest you.

As of now everything is superficially friendly and congenial. Pardon me for taking up your time, but I could not keep the news about the bill.

With sincere regards, I am

Yours very truly,

B. F. Keller
George F. Keller, M. D.