

2705 S. W. English Court,  
Portland 1, Oregon,  
March 8, 1955.

Mr. Anthony T. Lausi,  
Office of Territories,  
U. S. Interior Department,  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Lausi:

I have observed and have also been told that Henry Coe has apparently chosen you as his current correspondent. The observation comes from what I am shown and the rest comes from leaks which they do not suspect or know about. The latter are two new girls, one full time and the other part time, who saw through things the first time they were there and were appalled at what they saw and heard and are utterly disgusted about and with it all. We must, of course, protect their confidence. Even Mrs. Mickelson and Miss Celmerio are dictating letters and other things to these two now, to say nothing of dictation they take from and dictaphone records they transcribe for the Coes and Thompson. They have volunteered to tell me a few things which they thought I ought to know and which their sense of decency did not permit them to keep from me, for instance, what was written to whom that I would not know about and things they considered lies, slander and the like. Henry Coe, of course, is the worst offender, including what goes out over Wayne Coe's signature. They tell me that after he writes something he tries it out on Mrs. Mickelson or the Old Man or Thompson or all of them together or some combination thereof to see how it sounds to them and then with their suggestions or corrections or whatever the case may be, after several revisions produces what they all think is a masterpiece to gloat over. One of the girls has offered to do things in her home for me so that they would not know about it and that with the consent of her husband who is a city fireman. She has a brother in San Francisco who is a psychiatrist. She herself worked for the Government for eight years one time. She would not expect me to pay her. She claims that she would rather fight on my side. They have tried to quiz these girls about what I talked about to them, they have clocked them while they were in my office, they look over their shoulder and read what they are writing for me, they grab things off their desk and take them away and read them, they look through their note books, they ransack their desk looking for contraband, and the like. Does it look as though I need a private secretary and filing cabinet? Even so, I bet that they would somehow try to get an in with a secretary and I am sure that they could not be kept out of a filing cabinet. At least, I would not take a chance on or be dumb enough to leave anything in a filing cabinet which I did not want them to see.

I am enclosing a copy of a letter which Doctor Anderson sent to me at my home address. He first wrote to me and asked me if I had seen a copy of the letter or knew about it. Of course, I had to reply to him in the negative. I do not want to betray his confidence as far as they are concerned. I believe that he is for me and the Department. As far as Henry Coe's letter to him is concerned it is the usual mess of untruths, halftruths, distortions, attempt to undermine and discredit, and what have you. As I have told you before, it was I who started decent correspondence with people in the Territory and gave notice of patients to be discharged and tried to help to plan and arrange for them through the welfare and health agencies and showed any interest or expended any effort along such lines and even then I had to try to do it the hardest way possible, without any co-operation or assistance from here. The records in your office

61

will bear me out. All that other stuff was mostly before my time as you may well know. Finally, when the ancient Morningside chickens came home to roost, these people try to make me the goat for their more than half of a century of misconduct and getting by with murder. I believe that I have commented on all this quite adequately before several times. In fact, I had something to do with what they have been getting, but it was not intended to or supposed to strike me from some of the sources where where it has been coming from. Any reflection on me is only their attempt to clean their own skirts and pass the buck to me, and certainly does not lack for maliciousness or viciousness. I have always found it difficult to get someone paroled or discharged and even now it kills them to see someone go off the board bill. I am sure that Doctors Schumacher and Anderson did not want to or tried to hurt me personally. They were after this crowd and their hospital and not me. I would like to suggest that they be made responsible for paroles and discharges so that I could nag at them to get rid of some now and then, except that I know that that would present a worse situation than it has been or is now and there would even be less going out than there are now. Now with special reference to the Trice case, this man objected to hanging around here two weeks after he was ready to go home and to the health and welfare agencies being written about him, because he had a home to go to where his family was ready and waiting for him, I having previously corresponded with his wife and they wanting to take care of their own affairs. That is what I told Henry Coe. Even so I did what was expected of me to avoid their criticism. That was not good enough for them even then and they tried to improve on it, including distorting what I said, putting words into my mouth, and making a BIG LIE out of it as you see in Henry Coe's letter to Doctor Anderson. You have Doctor Anderson's reply to my letter of January 14, 1955 and also Mr. Harmon's. I believe that without the written consent of the patient or his next of kin or his legal guardian if someone wanted to do so some time they could even bring suit on account of some of this correspondence.

I learned from one of the new girls who worked on the payroll just the other day that Dr. Thompson's salary is \$9,500.00 plus full family maintenance.

They have not said anything to me about the Schumacher report yet.

One of the girls also told me that in one of Henry Coe's recent letters to you he said something about your visit here having done Doctor Keller some good. I would not know exactly what he might have meant by that, except that my playing my cards closer to my belt recently might be giving him that impression. He seems to think that he has a friend in you and that you might have been taken in by him or them.

Within the past week they have arranged with one Dr. D. C. Burkes to be the psychiatric consultant. Henry Coe explained it to me to have someone to keep Dr. Thompson brushed up. Dr. Thompson explained it to me as a part of Henry Coe's plan to get the "hospital" accredited for teaching and resident training purposes. I can safely say that will probably never happen. However, I have some other ideas about their motives and reasons for this and if you would like to know about them and Dr. D. C. Burkes I shall be glad to tell you.

Please refer to my letter of March 7, 1955, about Marie Doris Lytle and to Henry Coe's letter about her of March 8, 1955. His letter was inspired when he saw the copy of mine according to one of the girls. He quick had to try to do something about it and beat me to the punch if he could and that was the reason for his letter. Doctor Keller was not kept advised and some of the rest of it is bunk too. They tried to handle this very much under cover too and what I knew about it I just managed to observe or pick up somehow along the way. I would like to suggest that

you ask them to reserve the serial numbers in sequence for committed Alaskans on the Department's bill as it has always been in order to avoid confusion in our records unless you have accepted her on our bill already. It might be interesting to the Department to ask them to report every other admission to you so that you could get an idea of the number and where they came from, such as city, county, other Federal Agencies and the like including even any that were brought in and taken out on the same day as sometimes happens. Another interesting little sidelight on Henry Coe's Lytle letter was this. One of the girls told me that when he tried it out on Mrs. Mickelson and she came across the word veteran she facetiously remarked, its a good thing that she is'nt a veteran or she would'nt be here anymore. If you will check you will note that I have been quite successful in getting veterans transferred recently. And they like to see patients discharged. Thats a laugh. I would like to say that Doctor Anderson was so right.

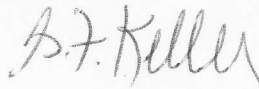
What I recently thought amounted to Wayne Coe having gone to Washington turned out to be another fishing trip. The second one since you were here. However, I was told by one of the girls that he has written to someone asking to be there for hearings.

It will probably be several more months before the female tuberculosis ward will be ready.

Please give my regards to all my friends there.

With best wishes and personal regards to you, I am

Sincerely yours,



George F. Keller, M. D.

P. S. My daughter and I had pizza at the Caro-Amico one time since you were there. I really enjoyed myself the evening we were there together when you and Mr. Goodrick were here.





# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

C. EARL ALBRECHT, M.D.      COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH

P.O. ~~Box 960~~ 327 Eagle

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

7 February 1955

Dr. George Keller  
2705 Southwest English Court  
Portland 1, Oregon

Dear Dr. Keller:

Are you aware of the fact that on January 26, 1955 Henry Coe wrote me a four-page letter in which he blames you entirely for the lack of cooperation between Morningside Hospital and the Alaska Department of Health? He informs me that you supervise the personnel of Morningside Hospital rather than they supervising you. I am amazed to hear such an admission out of Mr. Coe! Have you been able to see a copy of this letter? If not, I shall sneak you one.

Thanks for the admission statistics which arrived today. They indicate about what I would have expected.

Dr. Albrecht is of the opinion that the Coes are trying their best to fire you and have your position abolished. He feels that this would be a serious mistake, and I am sure that he will use his influence to prevent it if possible. I am writing to Bartlett on this subject.

Sincerely yours,

Charles L. Anderson, M.D.  
Chief, Section of Mental Health

CLA:bm



# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

C. EARL ALBRECHT, M.D. COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH

~~XXPOXBOX960~~ 327 Eagle

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

24 February 1955

George F. Keller, M.D.  
2705 S. W. English Court  
Portland 1, Oregon

Dear Dr. Keller:

My secretary has been tremendously busy with all the things that we throw at her to do, but she finally was able to produce a copy of Henry Coe's letter to me. Naturally neither you nor I would want him to know that you have received this copy. The letter will probably send your blood pressure up a few millimeters as you read it. So far I have not answered this letter, and I am not sure that I ever will.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chas. L. Anderson".

Charles L. Anderson, M.D.  
Chief, Section of Mental Health

CLA:bm  
Encl. 1

C o p y

THE SANITARIUM COMPANY  
Portland, Oregon

January 26, 1955

Charles L. Anderson, M.D.  
Chief, Section of Mental Health  
Alaska Department of Health  
Anchorage, Alaska

Dear Doctor Anderson:

I have in my hand your letter of December 28th in reply to Doctor Thompson's letter in which he enclosed the summary for our former patient, Walter B. Trice.

Doctor Thompson thought I might like to reply because I have just returned from Washington, D. C., after a trip whose principal purpose was to discuss the question of correspondence, including notice to you.

The last paragraph of your letter says:

"One of the reasons for my being critical of your hospital has been that patients have often been returned to their homes without adequate notification to families or other interested people."

We are now aware that in April or May of 1953 you wrote to Doctor Keller's superiors, the Office of Territories, in part as follows:

"I have in my files the records of a number of patients who were sent to their homes in isolated parts of Alaska without any advance notice being sent to the family or to the public health officials in the area. \*\*\* I feel that the present almost total lack of communication between the hospital and Alaska could easily be remedied at once."

We were advised that you complained to Doctor Parran that you could not get the requested information in time on patients returning from Morningside.

Doctor Schumacher has advised that you complained to him recently to the same effect. Doctor Schumacher took the trouble to tell Doctor Thompson about your complaint, in the interest of trying to be helpful.

We have seen your testimony before the Territorial Legislative Investigating Committee that Morningside Hospital did a bad job of follow-up with returning patients.

But, if in the past you " - - have found him (Doctor Keller) very cooperative and quite willing to give me any information I desired concerning any patient," how could it also be true you do not get adequate notification?

January 26, 1955

Page 2

Both Doctor Parran and Doctor Schumacher were somewhat surprised when we pointed out to them that this matter was entirely out of our hands. In the matter of the return of a discharged patient, certification for discharge, arrangements for transportation, and the supervision of the return of all patients are the exclusive function and responsibility of the Medical Officer of the Department of the Interior. We explained that Doctor Keller handled all correspondence concerning Alaska and Alaska patients and that Morningside Hospital, as such, did not have access to people in Alaska.

Ours is a very strange situation, unusual indeed. The hospital is responsible for the care and welfare of our patients up to the time the Medical Officer decides that a patient, whom we have recommended for discharge, is ready to leave. Thereafter, by law and contract, responsibility for further action regarding such patient is the Medical Officer's.

He is charged with making all necessary arrangements for the patient's transportation and proper return. This is a reasonable arrangement, for the hospital cannot tell when a patient, recommended for discharge, will be certified as ready to leave by the Medical Officer. It might be immediately, a month later, a year later, or he might not agree that the patient should leave at all.

A little further history of this situation will bring you up to date. The day after Doctor Parran drew our attention to the fact there was a request for, at that time, thirty days' advance notice of the return of a patient, we discussed the matter with Doctor Keller who was, of course, the only person who could take action. He felt that the thirty-day request was utterly unreasonable. After considerable discussion we pointed out that a two-week advance notice, although not what you had requested through Doctor Parran, was very easy to fit into our routines.

As a consequence, we wrote a letter addressed to you, dated August 3, 1954, in which Doctor Keller outlined the procedure he would follow henceforth (copy enclosed.) This we quote in part:

"We feel we can extend the time of notification to not less than two weeks prior to discharge. - - and we will also include any specific suggestions for his community rehabilitation which have become obviously necessary during his hospitalization."

The reasonableness of a request that advance notice be given is so obvious we did not see how it could be objected to, and we presumed this matter had been disposed of to the satisfaction of all concerned.

You can imagine our utter dismay when Doctor Schumacher reiterated your very understandable concern over the continued lack of advance notice. Quite naturally we had presumed that Doctor Keller was acting in the manner outlined in his letter to you. A survey, however, of the records of patients revealed that this procedure had not been in fact been followed in a single instance. It was obviously necessary for us to have another session with the Medical Officer.

At this time we pointed out the impossibility of the situation and, because he

January 26, 1955

Page 3

supervises us rather than we him, could only suggest that one of two courses was open. The first and most desirable would be to send the appropriate agencies in Alaska the advance notice which they desperately need for the proper discharge of their responsibilities and which had been promised by Doctor Keller in writing. The second would be to circularize all those who had received the letter or copies and advise them that he would not do what he had promised to do in his letter of August 3rd. Doctor Keller pointed out that he did not wish to sign the letter of August 3rd and did not agree with the policy.

In such a situation we are very much at a loss as to what to do. However, after some considerable discussion it was agreed that he should advise immediately upon a patient's being considered for discharge, although a definite date for arrival could not be included. Very obviously, this should allow two weeks or, perhaps, even more - certainly ample time - for the agencies concerned to undertake whatever action they felt necessary and which could be undertaken without a definite date of arrival. This was the best to which we could get Doctor Keller to agree. To insure that this time it would be carried out or that we would know it immediately, we gave instructions that no transportation requests should be issued where such a notice had not been sent out two weeks in advance. A copy of our memorandum to Doctor Keller at that time is enclosed.

At the time of the last interview with Doctor Keller on this subject, patient Walter Trice was cited by him as a specific case where notice of imminent return given in advance to the agencies in Alaska was neither necessary nor desirable. This is one of the reasons Doctor Thompson said, "I have taken the liberty of sending this information on to you only because I know of your personal interest in this patient and his wife, it having been decided by Doctor Keller that even the notice of discharge mentioned in his letter to you of August 3, 1954, was neither necessary nor desirable in this case." ?

This has caused us considerable concern and embarrassment. Particularly in respect of the advance notice to you, as it is Morningside Hospital, and not the Medical Officer, which has been criticized when this has been badly done. It is distressing that we are named by a person of your standing as the villain when in reality we are not.

I note your surprise when we stated that Doctor Keller had not seen fit to follow his promised procedure in the case of patient Walter B. Trice. Actually, have you ever received the timely notice you desire prior to this past December? ?

We are, as you can see, still in a situation where we have no direct control or responsibility over this matter. We hope the situation will soon clarify itself and our trip to Washington will bear fruit in this connection, as well as in regard to a minimal program of correspondence which we had undertaken consequent to Doctor Parran's visit, itself subject to acid criticism.

We notice in the meantime that Doctor Keller is again unwilling to follow the procedure of notice and has reopened the issue by letter to you of January 14, 1955.



January 26, 1955

Page 4

We have worked hard to get the procedure of proper notification to Alaska agencies standardized and, as you say, now satisfactorily. I shudder to think the ball may be fumbled; therefore, I earnestly and respectfully urge that your reply to Doctor Keller's letter of January 14th be most carefully termed. There seems but one reply, namely, that of course he will deal with each returning patient as the occasion calls for but that the time element of notifying you in advance will be complied with satisfactorily as outlined in his letter of August 3rd.

Very truly yours,

HENRY W. COE

hwc?dm