

2705 S. W. English Court,
Portland 1, Oregon,
April 16, 1955.

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

Dear Mr. Lausi:

A copy of a letter dated April 12, 1955, from Henry Coe to you, was brought to my attention off the record the other day. The letter has to do with the Strand children. Here is the story on it. If you will look into their files there you will find that they were brought down without one bit of information, not even the name and address of the parents, birth date and place of anything else. Neither were the parents or anyone else heard from for a long time. In fact, I never did hear from anybody. In order to find out something about them, I wrote to the Alaska Welfare Department and enclosed a questionnaire for them to get filled out. Some time later the questionnaire was returned with their birth dates and birth-place noted and the name and incomplete address of the parents and very little or nothing else. Also a note came with the questionnaire from the welfare worker in which she stated that she had taken the questionnaire to Dr. Stagg's office and that they filled it out there in order to spare the parents "further anxieties and tensions". I sent a copy of that note or short letter to your office and it should be on file there. It was dated October 11, 1954 and signed by Miss Cecilia Seliotes. Some time ago I heard that the maternal grandmother had visited the hospital. I did not see her or talk with her. It was after that that Dr. Dowling wrote to the parents. As you will note, Dr. Dowling is writing letters now too. Whether he wrote it on his own accord or was asked to write it or if Henry Coe or someone else wrote it for his signature, I do not know. His letter and the reply he got did not come to my attention nor did the letter that was received here after the one child's death until I was tipped off and as best I could, with out getting a girl into trouble, managed to see them. I have not seen a copy of their last letter to the parents nor am I supposed to know about Henry Coe's April 12, 1955 letter to you. The name of the grandmother is Mrs. Reederer, but I have been unable to find out her complete address and name to date. It apparently was she who supplied the street address of the parents. I now know that the full name and address of the parents is Mr. & Mrs. George A. Strand, 314 Buren, Ketchikan, Alaska. The patients' numbers are 2729 and 2730. As I mentioned previously, even Mrs. Mickelson and Miss Celerio are writing, dictating and signing letters now. As you might expect, anyone who ever ventures to supply me with the least bit of information of this sort is scared to death because of what would happen to them if it were found out. They would get fired on the spot. That is why it is so difficult to see, hear or find out anything and even so, there are several people here who are so disgusted with the mess that they take a chance on wising me up a little now and then. I had every reason to believe that the parents were not interested, did not want to be bothered and wanted to forget. The reason I sent the copy of the welfare worker's letter to your office was for your information and guidance in connection with billing them and to bring their apparent disinterest to your attention. As far as I am concerned any Coe letters are hypocrisy and crocodile tears or worse as they go out to people about such matters and as they might apply

to me plain throat cutting and back stabbing. I probably know very little or nothing about many other letters to you and other people all with the same design. If I did and would have an opportunity to relate the true facts it would be an altogether different story. I have also heard that they go in for calling you long distance lately. Needless to say, I am getting quite fed up with their activities directed against me. I am trying to represent and do my duty for the Government and the patients. I am not interested in their present or future prosperity. In fact, I am sure that they have had and are having more than their share or entitlement of that. I hope that enough other people can see it that way too, if not now, at least in time. You probably know that they are flying to Washington next Tuesday to be at some committee hearings. They have all been working day and night out there since the visitors were here making up reports, statistics, etc., to either send in or take with them. They ask me nothing and tell me less. All I know is what little I hear or can observe or guess at. Everything else has stopped while this has been going on for the past week or more. Some of my things have had to wait a day or two before the girl could get them out because she was too busy doing "more important" things for them, like writing some of those form letters. I know that they do not want me to be able to do my job right and get it done and that they are doing everything they can to prevent it and what they want even more than that is to be rid of my position and me so that they cannot be watched and reported on.

With best wishes and personal regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

G. F. Keller
George F. Keller, M. D.

This would have to be strictly confidential, but if you would like to have someone else's word besides mine about what goes on here write to these ladies, Mrs. Ada Dunson, 3111 S. E. 131st Avenue, Portland, Oregon and Mrs. Mercedes Sherman, 1776 N. E. 134th Place, Portland, Oregon. They are both employed in the office here now and are able to see, hear and know at least a part of what is going on here and do not approve of most of it. They are very high grade women. They are far above some of the rest. They probably do not have access to or hear or know or see the half of it, but they would be able to give you a pretty good general idea of and about things. At any rate, their opportunities along those lines are and would be better than mine. They have been able to find out and tell and show me a few things which I would never have been able to find out about or have seen, heard or learned about otherwise. They would be willing to cooperate if they were promised that it would be safe for them to do so. You could ask them anything you would like to know and they would tell you if they could or they would try to find out about it for you. I would particularly like to have you ask them about me and the problems which I am up against here.

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