

2705 S. W. English Court,
Portland 1, Oregon,
May 10, 1955.

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

Dear Mr. Lausi:

No doubt you have had a caller or callers recently. As you probably know by now, Henry Coe and Doctor Thompson attended the American Psychiatric Association convention at Atlantic City. Doctor Thompson intends to be gone for a whole month. They were supposed to have had a four hour stopover in Washington last Friday forenoon. After Atlantic City, Doctor Thompson expects to be met in New York by his wife where they intend to see some "Broadway" shows. Doctor Thompson told me that the Coes are going to pay his expenses. I do not know how long Henry Coe intends to be away or where all he intends to go, but he apparently expects to transact some business in Washington because he took all kinds of "material" with him. I could not afford to attend the meeting. Mrs. Keller will be going to Atlantic City in June on an expense paid trip to attend the American Medical Association convention as president-elect of the Oregon State Medical Society Auxiliary. She is doing better than I am. I cannot afford that one either and besides the young daughter could not be left alone.

Now for several other little highlights. The new staff meetings are quite the planned and staged affairs. Every word uttered is carefully recorded. Later it is edited into three and four pages of minutes across the way to sound like they want it to. My best course is to say nothing, because whatever I said, regardless of how I said it, would be reproduced the way they wanted it to sound. They really try to put on a show. I wonder if you have been receiving copies. Recently I have received much help by having patients selected for me to be discharged or paroled. Some have been quite impossible and I would really look foolish if I turned them loose. In fact, some that have been proposed are as psychotic as they have ever been. Not long ago most of them would have been vigorously protested had I suggested it. They will not have it said, for the time being at least, that they do not cooperate in trying to get rid of patients. I will go as far as fast as I can on this. The mail continues to be very carefully sorted and distributed. That is, I do not get any which can possibly/withheld from me. They encroach on correspondence which I should handle all over the place, but they would scream their heads off if I encroached on them even the least bit. It even happened one time a while back where a letter about discharging a patient addressed to Doctor Thompson was placed on my desk. Assuming that it had been placed there for me to take care of, I did. The next thing I knew, Doctor Thompson called me on it in a "staff meeting" in the presence of the Coes and Doctors Burkes and Dowling. Then I decided that the letter had been planted there and that it was a putup job and that by acting in good faith and within my rights I had taken their bait and played into their hands so that they would have something to cry about. That is the kind of stuff the Coes and Doctor Thompson can think up and pull off. Of course, he was trying to impress Doctor Burkes too. They do not refer anything to me unless it has my name on it, regardless of what it may be about and I sometimes wonder about even getting all the mail that does have my name on it. Some one of them just goes ahead and writes regardless of whether the subject matter is supposed to be within my category or not. If it is something they want me to see, it comes over my

desk and probably more often it does not. Anything which they think makes no difference whether I see it or not is filed in the patient's folder and anything else goes into separate and special files, which I am not supposed to know about and which I do not and will never see. In fact, they are kept under lock and key in several places which are not accessible to me and are closely guarded by someone even over and above that at all times. I have that straight from two of the girls who know about it. These sometimes show me or make me copies of such stuff or at least tell me about it and at the same time are scared to death for fear of being found out and summarily fired. Only their sense of fair play and their resentment toward some people and the things they do compels them to take a chance and voluntarily keep me informed a little as best they can. Recently Henry Coe tried to hold out for me to parole a sobered up DT rather than to discharge him. His argument was that the next time he got drunk he could be sent back down immediately without recommitment or they could even send for him and pay his transportation expenses. I discharged the fellow. His name was Krusl. Recently Henry Coe also tried to give me quite a bad time in connection with getting clothing for a fellow to be discharged. The fellow needed practically everything and it looked for a while as though they intended to hold out for me to personally go shopping with and for him if anything was going to be done about it. That was the case of Dumovich. They did all kind of plotting and held out as long as they could and during the course of this time Henry Coe came around several times and tried to engage me in an argument about it. He contended that according to the terms of their contract it was the Secretary's responsibility and my job to properly clothe outgoing patients and that they did not have to do anything about it unless they wanted to do so. He tried every way possible to extract remarks or comments from me which he could have twisted or distorted and reported as reflecting adversely on the Secretary and the Department. I told him that I expected outgoing patients to be properly clothed and that I would pass on what they needed, but that I did not intend to personally take them shopping or to go shopping for them. I further told him that if they refused to cooperate or insisted on trying to embarrass me, I would make an issue of it and take it to the Department for a showdown and ask for a revision of the contract on that and several ^{or other} points. Thereupon they performed reluctantly. He was quite excited about the matter and I have a feeling made phone calls and wrote letters about it or probably reported in person by way of trying to place me in a bad light. Of course, that is what he was looking for an excuse for to be able to do. Several weeks later, not to be outdone, he came up with the enclosure. Probably also to try to smooth it over a little. The parttime teacher has not been here since the first of the year. Wayne recently spent a week fishing on Puget Sound. I understand that they contemplate being inspected by and receive a rating from the American Psychiatric Association. That can be obtained for a fee. At this stage of the game they might be able to make a pretty good showing. I have also been told by the girl who is available to me for a limited amount of assistance that she has been instructed to make at least two copies of every letter that I dictate to her. If it pertains to a patient one copy is put into the patient's file and the other one is filed separately somewhere else. Nothing that is ever taken out of my office is ever returned to me except for something to be signed before it is mailed or otherwise disposed of. Henry Coe takes charge and possession of everything else and keeps it some place. The girl has instructions not to bring anything back to me and is afraid to do so openly even when I ask for it. She is even more reluctant and scared to do it any other way. Only her sense of decency prompts her to take a chance now and then in spite of her fears. She begs me not to put her on the spot by saying anything to Henry Coe or any of the rest of his stooges for fear that they will take it out on her. That certainly limits me as long as I want to keep the girl, retain her confidence, and protect her. About the time they fired her, they would claim that she quit on account of me, and try to use that as an excuse for not furnishing me any help.

My own secretary and equipment would have prevented Henry Coe from having brought this kind of a situation into existence or would have eliminated it a long time ago and could put a stop to it right now. Then I could and would be able to write letters and reports and memoranda and the like unhampered and would really give them a run for their money. The girl would not have to be afraid of them. Henry Coe would not be able to snatch things. I would be able to assert myself without worrying about doing harm to a girl. That, of course, is what they fear, do not want, and are trying to prevent, and so far have been very successful at forestalling. I believe that I should also have receipts for any money or checks in my name which come in letters addressed to patients which I open or that come in letters addressed to me and that I turn over to them to be placed into the patients' trust fund account. It would be so easy for them to some time claim that they did not receive something from me after I turned it over and something happened to it subsequently or it was lost or not recorded by them or they made a mistake in their accounts or anything of that nature. They are very careless about those things and have made mistakes and have had the accounts badly fouled up and I am sure that money has been lost and the like. I do not think that it has ever been customary for anyone in my position to have obtained receipts from them, at least, so I was led to believe and for eight years have simply been trustingly ~~with~~ handing money over to them. To start asking for receipts now would not go over very big with them and so far, I would have no place to keep them if I did. You might make an inquiry and suggest such a thing. Whenever they can find it convenient to send out the bill without it being initialled by ^{me} they do so, as you may have noticed. It seems that the bill has to go out on the last day of the month even if it is on a Saturday, Sunday or holiday and the month is not up until midnight of that day and patients could be admitted or die or whatever the case might be before the end of the day and month even after the bill has been made out and already sent off by air mail. Why it cannot wait until the first or Monday I have never been able to figure out. I think it is merely the hurry to get the money. What would be your guess? That happened again on the 30th of April which was on a Saturday. You could also make some mention about that some time. They are also reluctant to show me a copy of the patients' trust fund account report or tell me how much money a patient has in it if for some reason I want to know. In fact, Mrs. Mickelson recently went so far as to tell the other girls that those and most other other things were none of my business. I am enclosing several examples of Betty Celorie taking over Doctor Thompson's letter writing for your amusement. That may be Henry Coe's amateurish idea of running a "hospital". To me it is just plain horseplay and not the kind of stuff the Government should be paying eight hundred thousand to a million dollars a year for. I wish that I were able to send you copies of all the letters that go out of here written by the various individuals and also copies of some of the letters that they are in reply to or whatever they may be about. Of course, even that would be restricted to what subsequently comes over my desk. A recent example of Mrs. Mickelson's "efficiency" happened last Monday morning, when due to her carelessness and indifference, a patient was not gotten off on a plane on which reservation had been made, for her and advance notice had been sent out on her. When I caught up with ^{it} during the course of the day we had to send wires and get her off the following morning. She assured me that we would not be billed for two fares, however. For some reason, a copy of Henry Coe's letter of April 12th to you in reply to your letter of April 4th about the admission of patients did not reach my desk until Wednesday May 11th. Henry Coe called Mrs. Mickelson from Washington this morning (Friday, May 13th). I had to write this by installments as time and opportunity permitted. Believe me, I do not like to write about this kind of stuff, but that is how it is and nothing like it could be found anywhere else. I would like to be able to laugh it off, but find it difficult to do so because the whole sit-

uation should really not be a laughing matter. Thank you for the interim report which you sent me today. I also had a nice letter from Mr. Strand several days ago. I see by the papers where statehood has had a setback. I wish I knew what is going to happen and what it might mean for me. I suppose time and the turn of events will decide.

With best wishes and personal regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

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

May 11, 1955

Mrs. Annie L. Reeve
Box 197
Metlakatla, Alaska

Dear Mrs. Reeve:

We wish to thank you very much for your letter of May 4, and the questionnaire which you returned. It is obvious from your letter that you sincerely wish to help your sister, and we appreciate your feeling.

Doctor Thompson is away in the East at this time, but when he returns we will give him your letter so that he, himself, may reply.

Perhaps you would like to know some of the things you might send your sister while she is here. After inquiring about letters, perhaps the most often asked question is about the sending of gifts to patients. Of course this is permitted, because having birthdays, Christmas and other days of special importance to Nora, remembered with card, letter or gift is always appreciated. For example, your sister's favorite magazine or the newspaper from her town might be a particularly thoughtful gift. Almost anything which will give your sister pleasure, either in owning and taking care of, or in sharing with others would be suitable.

The \$.17 which Nora had with her when she arrived here has been deposited in the bank and is available to her to use generally very much as she wishes. Funds which she might receive later will be handled in the same way. Patients may use their canteen where they may buy the special items which we all enjoy from time to time: candy, our favorite brand of cigarettes, sodas, ice cream, etc: and for things that are not available there, a shopping servide with local stores is available to Nora.

We hope that you will continue writing to Nora, and we will be happy to answer your letters whenever you wish to write.

Sincerely

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bc

FOR: William W. Thompson, M. D.
Medical Director

May 13, 1955

Mr. Warren W. Schmidt
622 Ash
Moscow, Idaho

Dear Mr. Schmidt:

Since Doctor Thompson is away in the East, I am replying to your letter of May 12. When he returns, I will call it to his attention, so that he may write to you. I am sure he will be glad to hear of your wife's progress.

We were very pleased to hear that she is happy and enjoying life in Idaho. It is my sincere wish that your life together will continue to be a happy one, with much good fortune.

I want to thank you for your little note of appreciation to me. It was very gratifying to know that I was of some help to you while Davon was here.

Sincerely

BETTY CELORIE

bc/

May 13, 1955

Mr. Gregory Kokrine
Tanana, Alaska

Dear Mr. Kokrine:

We wish to thank you very much for your letter of May 10. Doctor Thompson is away in the East and will not return until the end of this month. When he returns, we will give him your letter so that he might write you to give you news of Howard.

If you wish to write to Howard, please feel perfectly free to do so. News from home is always welcome to persons who are hospitalized.

Thank you again for your letter.

Sincerely

FOR: WILLIAM W. THOMPSON, M. D.
Medical Director

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