

2705 S. W. English Court,
Portland 1, Oregon,
November 21, 1954.

Hon. Wm. C. Strand,
207 N. Columbus,
Alexandria, Virginia.

Dear Mr. Strand:

First of all I want to again express my thanks and appreciation for the courtesy and hospitality which you and Mrs. Strand showed me. My return trip was uneventful. Several curious things happened during my absence. It seems that my predecessor and his wife were up from Los Angeles during that time and the Coes put on a dinner party for them. The Haskins have a married daughter here and she and her husband were also guests at the dinner. At the dinner was also Dr. Tallman's son, who I learned is a student at the notorious Reed College here. Who else might have been there I did not learn. Also during my absence Mr. Eugene Pugh from the Fairbanks Welfare Department office was passing thru town. He called the hospital to talk with me about some patients. Talking with Dr. Thompson instead of me resulted in Thompson and Junior meeting him up town and taking him to lunch at the Multnomah Hotel. Junior told me these things apparently to impress me not realizing that these are just things that I want to know. The latter fits into the recent surge of attempted better public relations in the Territory. I do not know what the former might portend. I have been swamped with work since my return and am not nearly caught up. Unhappily, I am unable to recall the name of the gentleman whom I talked with in Undersecretary Beasley's office. He is a fine fellow. He was quite surprised by some of the things which he all of a sudden saw in some of the documents before him. He was astounded that I did not have a private secretary provided by the Government and no privacy whatsoever with reference to correspondence, files, and the like. He even suggested that perhaps the Government should staff Morningside. Instead of noone representing the Department here I actually could use some assistance to help me do a good job even better. I am glad that you approve of my doing a little private work on my own time. I would find it difficult to break even on my salary. I think that you would find it very interesting to talk with Dr. Henry C. Schumacher and Miss Mary E. Corcoran some time. I am glad that you met Dr. Overholser and hope that you will find him very useful. I do not believe that he thinks too much of Dr. Parran. Please give my regards to Mr. Millner and thank him for his courtesy to me for me. I hope that I will have some of you here with me some time so that I will be able to reciprocate. I believe that if visitors notified me or called me and had me meet them when in town and let me transport them to and from Morningside it would help to impress the boys. I would like to have the operations of this place and some of its people well known in your office. I could point out and tell all the details. Most everything has been told to someone in your office some time or other. The only drawback is that there is always something new and different happening that should be told. I hope that you remember some of the things I told you and that we talked about. This place and some of the people who have been and are connected with it have unusual and peculiar histories. Some of the background is rather smelly. If it is convenient for time and place some time and you want to hear everything I know I will tell it to you. I hit some of the high spots when I talked with you and it is difficult to think of or remember everything all at one time. From here on out I will just ramble and write down the things as they come to me. You must have heard how patients dug those tunnels and basements even under buildings with picks and shovels some times on their bellies like moles and also holes all over the farm for sewage disposal over the years. How when

the city sewer came out to 96th street several years ago they dug over to it and dumped into it without permission. How it took the city several more years to find out about it. Coe was on the pan over that for a while, but he got it fixed up by paying a little back rent. I have an idea that he has something to do with that part of the city beyond 96th street not being annexed so that he will not have to give up his pigs and cows. The city limits border his land at 96th street. Contrary to what Junior told you, the neighbors raise holy hell most of the time on account of the manure stink and especially when hog manure is being spread every so often. It does'nt seem to do the poor devils any good though. Coe keeps right on going his merry way. As you know, most of the work and labor here is done by patients. They would try to pass a patient doing carpenter work off as a union man to an unsuspecting visitor or spectator. They dress their female attendants up like nurses even though they were hired off the street the day before without a day of experience and I have heard them tell visitors that they were all registered nurses. I even caught them loaning patients to some of the neighboring Italian truck farmers to do their work and hope I put a stop to it. They used to haul patients off the grounds by truck loads to U-pick fruits in orchards which they had bought the culls or windfalls in or more than likely got it for nothing. They used to haul patients in trucks across town to work on Coe's estate. Patients used to be taken to do my predecessor's and Miss Hagna's yard work. Several years ago Lazelle bought a place with an unfinished house on it. He used patients to finish building the house and a garage, to dig extra basement space under the house, to build a driveway from it to the street, etc. They were taken there early before I got on the job and not returned until I left in late afternoon. They received practically nothing for lunch from him. I was even away for several weeks during that time and never caught on to what was being pulled until about the last day of the enterprise. They watch their chance and some of this still goes on even though it has been reported to your office and ordered stopped and written into the present contract. For all I know, somebody might have gotten a big project done off the grounds with free labor while I was in Washington recently. Junior is remodeling an old house for himself and I have a feeling that some of it has been and is being done that way. Even ordinary help used to take patients out on a pass on the pretext that they were going to take them on an outing or for dinner and then would use them to do their yard and other kinds of work for them. I think I have the latter stopped, but then I am never sure about anything around here. Members of my family and some of my friends have seen patients working in Coe's yard since it has been forbidden in the present contract. I have heard of them having patients out digging spuds in a sleet storm on a Saturday afternoon when I was not supposed to be around. I have heard of them working patients in the cannery late into the night during pea harvest without taking time out for supper and then sending them to bed without any. I usually hear or learn about such things after it is too late to do anything about it, because they were done by stealth. When I say anything they either lie or want to argue about it. Ultimately I usually hear or find out about everything either from patients or employees or neighbors. The patients and employees are usually afraid to talk. Some times people call me on the phone at home during the evening to tell me things, because they want to be sure I know and to get it off their chest. The place and its owners have a poor reputation in the community. This is almost a police job. How can anyone doubt the need for someone to ride herd on this place and its operators. In fact, it is a twenty-four hour job at all times. Do you see why they dont' want anybody around to check up on them and know what goes on, much less to have it reported. Raspberry picking is a thirty day annual event. The rhubarb is cultivated, pulled, trimmed, crated and loaded onto cannery trucks by patients for at least two crops to the tune of six to nine thousand dollars. The cauliflower is planted, cultivated, tied to bleach, cut trimmed, crated and loaded by patients. The spinach contracted to canneries is picked by patients, crated, loaded, etc. There must even be other things. And so it goes on and on. Nobody who knows anything about what is all sold and the income from it will do any talking. I know that around forty thousand

dollars worth of pork has been sold annually. The patients see a few trimmings from the pork in head cheese or stew. The cattle is expensive breeding stock and is sold as such. Some of the patients some times are worked like mules when nobody is looking. Recently Junior expanded their canteen facilities and more effort is being made for patients to spend their money if they have any. There is a little profit in this too. When patients do not have any money or run out, they write to relatives and ask them to send some. Some relatives probably will not be able to afford to send any. I have always been a little suspicious of the handling of the patient's money. It might interest you to know that Junior and Thompson wrote the article Richards published. The Coes and Thompson would like to write a bill for themselves and get it passed. They will be eager to come in and do it. They think that they have an in now and are hoping to cash in on it. They think that they are dealing with a bunch of new people who do not know what it is all about, who have not caught on yet, who might be gullible, and are trying to take advantage of them. Some of this was demonstrated by the recent inspectors. Sixty thousand dollars sounds like a lot of money for that survey and report. I hope you will remember some of the things we talked about. If you have any questions, please ask me. As I think of other things I will let you know. You asked about society. They are trying to play the fringe. This place has quite a history, even a little sordid in spots. Big black headlines could easily be made about it and some of its actors. Too bad we cant all hunt big game in Africa, fish and hunt in Canada, fish and hunt all over Oregon, travel in Europe and Mexico, etc. So much for now. The hour is late and I am fatigued.

With best wishes to both you and Mrs. Strand, I beg to remain

Sincerely yours,

G. F. Keller

George F. Keller, M.D.