

2705 S. W. English Court,
Portland 1, Oregon,
November 26, 1954.

Hon. Wm. C. Strand, Director,
Office of Territories,
U. S. Interior Department,
Washington 25, D. C.

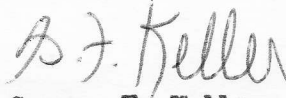
Dear Mr. Strand:

Enclosed is an assortment of stuff. This is not nearly all, but it represents part of that which so far has reached the patient's clinical folder or otherwise has landed on my desk. I hate to impose this on you and do not ask you to read all of it, but I do want to call your attention to certain parts of it. I would like you to read Dr. Thompson's November 23rd letter to Eugene V. Pugh; Mrs. Mickelson's, the "Executive Secretary", for Morningside Hospital, letter of October 29th to Mr. Golga Sakar, in which she begs for alms wherewith to sell candy and chewing gum to the patient; Dr. Thompson's letter of October 12th to Mr. Dennis Miller; Dr. Thompson's letter of November 9th to Mrs. Lucy Kate Neil; and on down the line. This is Dr. Thompson's more or less amateurish attempt to fulfill Coes' and particularly Junior's desire for bigger and better public relations and publicity. It is taking Dr. Thompson's time away from taking care of patients. It is using stenographer time that I need and should have. From where I am looking; and as it always was done; and according to former and previous insistence on their part; and according to good hospital management, standards, operation, ethics, etiquette, courtesy and the like; most of these letters should have been written by me if they were written at all, or delegated by me to someone else to prepare for my signature and subject to my approval. I could and would have written some of them had I been given the opportunity. Of course, these are probably only part of what I have been or will be permitted to see. I know that there are plenty letters being written by them which I will never know about much less that I will ever be permitted to see. Henry Coe tried to tell me that Dr. Parran suggested and recommended this new procedure to them. If I know anything about it he and Thompson began trying to take over the phone calls, visitors and correspondence in connection with committed Alaskan patients long before Parran was here. Dr. Thompson claims that he does it on orders from the Coes. Some of these letters represent replies to correspondence about committed Alaskan patients which came in envelopes from which my name had been omitted. Formerly, as nearly as I know, everything in connection with committed Alaskan patients was referred to me, and that is as it should be now. There was even a time when they tried to or wished everything off on me, and particularly anything and everything where they preferred to remain in the background. The latter would apply now and henceforth if and when anything like that comes up. I have often wondered why I should feel or be compelled by them to front for them or to pull their chestnuts out of the fire for them or personally to take a rap for them in matters which should have been and should be dumped in their laps for them to stew in and for them to sweat out as best they could. Usually this involved something where instead of defending them I should have been on the other side assisting in pouring on the heat. That could go for any criticism which might ever have come my way from anywhere any time. The fact of the matter is, that that is probably the only useful purpose they ever saw in me. The only time I ever succeeded in handing them something disagreeable to take care of for themselves, was in the case where a sister in Europe was unhappy because her brother died in the course of insulin coma therapy, and your office had to come to my assistance at that time at that.

view and personal handling by me or to be delegated or referred to someone else by me for disposition as I saw fit or chose to do. That would put things where they belong and as it should be. Anything else would continue to make more confusion and turmoil than we already have. I further asked that any correspondence about committed Alaskan patients done by anyone else be prepared for my approval and signature. He did not agree to this or these requests until I told him that if they did not comply I would ask you to support me with a directive or an order to them to that effect. He then reluctantly agreed. Now we will have to wait to see what they will try to pull off next. I hope that you will see fit to support me in this matter if it should become necessary, because that is as I think it should be. Anything else would be a throat cutting, back stabbing mess leading to more chaos and no telling where it might end. I would not have brought this up yet, but something came up Wednesday afternoon when I found it necessary to take a firm stand and put Junior in his place. Wayne Coe has not been around lately and I have not had an opportunity to talk with him about anything. Junior, however has been making himself progressively more obnoxious. Perhaps he is being put up to it. He would even liked to have had a complete report from me about my trip to Washington. I have told him practically nothing and the suspense has made him quite upset. He shows signs of an anxiety state. He told me that he had learned a few things Dr. Tallman wrote into his report from their "mutual friend", Dr. Haskins. For instance, that their food was not good and that they should have a supervising psychiatric nurse. He asked my opinion about that and I told him that I agreed. He countered that he did not see the need for such a nurse and that their food is good. I saw Dr. Schumacher at the meeting today. I asked him to write you his comments about the Mental Health section of the Par-ran Report after he has read it. He said that he would do so. He also told me that he will be in Washington some time next January at which time he would like to meet you and talk with you personally. Here is his name and address, Dr. Henry C. Schumacher, Federal Office Building, San Francisco 2, California. I took today off. I will be back on the job Monday. I trust that you had a good Thanksgiving Day.

Thanking you for past courtesies and consideration, and with best wishes and personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,



George F. Keller, M. D.

P. S. Please return the enclosures as soon as possible so I can return them to the folders before they are missed and avoid unhappiness.

GFK

As you might expect, Thompson did it for the Coes then. I have always thought and felt that I should have some discriminatory authority as to what in the case of committed Alaskan patients I should take care of and what I should hand to somebody else. The critic or censor is always in a more advantageous position. Now they want to handle all the pleasant, easy stuff and no doubt would intend to try to keep on handing me all the disagreeable, tough stuff. They would not mind handling what might do them some good, build them up, and not reflect adversely on them or their "hospital", but if something came up which might or could be made to reflect unfavorably on me and/or the Department instead of on them and their "hospital", or discredit and play us down, they would try to make it mine or our baby, and expect us to take the rap for them while we tried to make them appear in a favorable light. They would not hesitate to try to gain credit or profit at our expense. The same would go for phone calls, and personal contacts as well as mail. I maintain that everything pertaining to committed Alaskan patients, inasmuch as they are wards of the Government and inasmuch as I represent the Department, be it phone calls, personal contacts or mail, is our business and we should have first choice. Junior Coe presented the idea that all mail delivered at the "hospital" is hospital business, and since they own the "hospital" it is their business, and that since Dr. Thompson works for them it is his business, and so on down the line among them. Consequently, he claims that they have a right to open everything that comes there regardless of how or to whom addressed and do with it and handle it as they please with regard to showing it, corresponding about it, or whatever the case may be. He claims that as far as he is concerned nothing personal comes there for me even though my name is on the envelope and it be marked personal and/or confidential whether it pertains to committed Alaskan patients or anything else, and that actually nothing around there is any of my business, and that further I have no rights, privileges, prerogatives or status there. He believes that their authority and responsibility in connection with committed Alaskan patients is greater than that of the Government or the Department or mine. On the other hand he contends that a letter addressed to Dr. Thompson about committed Alaskan patients is his personal mail and his personal business and none of mine and that he can do with it as he pleases. He considers everything there including everything pertaining to committed Alaskan patients theirs and Dr. Thompson's personal business to do with as they please regardless of me. Do you think there might be something wrong with the fellow? I contend that as far as committed Alaskan patients are concerned they and Dr. Thompson do not have any personal business. I warned him that if I caught anyone tampering with mail addressed to me I would report them to the Postal Authorities. This sort of backed him down a bit. I know that he and Dr. Thompson and no doubt his father are feverishly corresponding with Drs. Parran, Tallman, Haskins, and other people since they were here. They want to know what is in the report and I have a pretty good idea about whatever else. It used to be that as the mail came in whoever was handy sorted it and distributed it according to their best judgement. Recently it is being held until Mrs. Mickelson, the "Executive Secretary" arrives, who then very carefully and secretively sorts it alone or with Junior's help if he is there in their office. I presume that anything that had my name on it has been coming to me so far, but for some time now everything about committed Alaskan patients addressed in any other way has been withheld from me until they have handled the correspondence in connection with it and have seen fit to place it in the file basket and thus making it possible for me to see it. They have always been secretive and reluctant with the mail as well as with everything else, but it is worse now than ever. A lot of mail comes in here about committed Alaskan patients which should not and probably cannot be handled by anyone except me under the circumstances. I told Henry W. Coe that from now on all telephone calls, personal contacts, mail and all other pertinent business or matters in connection with committed Alaskan patients would be referred to me for consideration and re-