

2705 S. W. English Court,  
Portland 1, Oregon,  
December 2, 1954.

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

Dear Mr. Strand:

You are, of course, familiar with the outline of my duties. I am enclosing a copy for your convenient reference. I have tried to carry these out as nearly as possible in this situation and under these circumstances as tactfully and inoffensively as I could. Since my little talk with Junior about a week ago he has changed his attitude considerably and is trying to be quite friendly. For a while it looked like he was losing his reason and judgement. I do not think that I will let myself be fooled though. One never knows what they are going to be up to next. As far as I have been able to tell my requests are being honored, at least, I have not been able so far to determine otherwise. I am reminded about their gripes about my cold and curt letters. I seldom receive a letter which is not full of gratitude and which does not make mention of my promptness, courtesy, sympathetic understanding, encouragement, kind words, and the like. It would be interesting to know what all else they tried to tell you. They must have been hard put if that is all they could think of. Certainly, I could not and will not be able to think, speak and act to their liking all the time. They are on the defensive and would try to compensate their fears and guilt feelings and try to be on record first by grasping at straws. To me it meant and means nothing more than their attempt to take over at least some or part of the correspondence which would offer them an opportunity to build up a little long neglected good will for themselves here and there. In other words, to try to foster their recently acquired ideas with reference to their need for "better public relations", actually publicity and advertising, and that on a very mercenary and commercial basis to serve their own selfish ends. I believe that I have done a good job with the correspondence and did not neglect their interests very much, even though I kept it professional and dignified and still warm and human. I could not bring myself to writing a lot of bologna and apple sauce like they would like to have and as they put out. I certainly do not think that doing my job well in the pursuit of my routine duties should include being their advertising or press agent or publicity man. I also got another angle on Dr. Tallman. I understand that while he was Director of the Mental Health Section of the California Health Department He was irked and annoyed by our apparent lack of co-operation in receiving patients from California State Hospitals to Morningside. He apparently projected some of this feeling into his report and onto both your office and me. The first question which Dr. Thompson asked me upon my return was whether I had done anything about getting the Alaskans who are hospitalized in other states transferred to Morningside where they belong. That shows their keen interest in getting business and it seems to bother them considerably to think that there might be several patients here or there whom they probably could have and have not received yet. When I told him that I did not remember that even having been discussed he remarked that Dr. Tallman had asked about that and that they had talked about it. Junior volunteered at lunch today that their recent dictaphone sprints amounted to writing thank you letters and notes of appreciation to people who had been nice to them, had done favors for them, and the like. This probably would not have come out without some guilt feelings or to try to throw me off the track in the event that I might have been suspicious. He also said that it required a lot of letters in order to write all over the country in an effort to get a copy of the Parran Report and that so far he

had not been able to get one yet. Of course, he does not know that I have one. He said that he wrote to Dr. Tallman for one, who "passed the buck" to Dr. Parran, who in turn "passed the buck" to Mr. Lewis. This is all that comes to mind now and I think brings me up to date and current. I hope that I have not imposed on you or bored you. Certainly, I do not want to offend anyone. I hope that from now on I will have more pleasant thoughts and information.

Thanking you for everything, I am

Sincerely yours,



George F. Keller, M. D.

- U. S. W. Federal Court,  
Portland, Oregon.
1. Under the general direction of the Director of the Division of Territories and Island Possessions, to represent the Department of the Interior, and have professional and administrative charge of the care and treatment of approximately 352 legally adjudged insane of Alaska, confined in the Morningside Hospital, Portland, Oregon, which is owned and operated by The Sanitarium Company of Portland, Oregon, under contract with the United States.
  2. To supervise and direct the medical and psychiatric examination, diagnosis and treatment of patients; to conduct conferences and instruct the medical staff in diagnostic and therapeutic practices; and to see that proper records of the medical activities are kept and reports rendered.
  3. To maintain supervision and inspect the building, grounds, and equipment; to render reports to the Director of the Division of Territories relative thereto; to maintain proper coordination of the various activities of the hospital with other hospitals and the public; to act as liaison officer between the Department and the Sanitarium Company.
  4. To investigate the ability of all patients their estates or their responsible relatives, to reimburse the Government for the cost of their care at Morningside Hospital, and to furnish the Division with full information obtained by such investigations.
  5. To make thorough studies from time to time of the various types of mental illness among the patients, and to prepare reports of the results of such studies.
  6. To investigate the citizenship and legal residence of patients and to take such preliminary action as may be warranted to transfer the patients to the custody and care of their native countries or the States of legal residence.
  7. To supervise the parole and placement of patients partially or wholly recovered.
  8. To supervise the return to their homes of patients who are discharged and to arrange for their transportation.