

- Mr. Adams: Was there anything to indicate that she was out of line sexually?
- Miss Dolan: Why, has there been anything up here to indicate...?
- Mr. Adams: No, was there down there?
- Miss Dolan: I would like to say that they were a very stubborn type of girl sent down there.
- Mr. Adams: Was she a sexual deviate?
- Miss Dolan: I think while she was here.
- Mr. Adams: Was there anything down there?
- Miss Dolan: Well, her behavior was anything but proper. I know that everybody she worked for was warned not to leave her alone.
- Mr. Petersen: This strikes me as a very serious thing - I would resent it very much if someone called one of my girls a deviate. It is possible that you have evidence of the facts that would lead you to place these girls into such a category. But making a charge against a young person of such a nature - I would like to know whether you have evidence - where you walked in, or where other girls complained of girls molesting them?
- Miss Dolan: Since 1947, beginning at 11 o'clock at night until two and four in the morning, I was watchman. The trouble, Mr. Petersen, was here: When the New Colony - Mr. Dale is quite familiar with what we went through - when the New Colony was opened, the whole living room furniture, beds - in fact some of the girls sent to me from Brandon slept on mattresses on the floor during the time we were waiting for furniture. In other words, the old group of girls was pulled out and placed in Middlebury and new girls were sent in. So instead of having your five or six steady, fine girls, pretty perfectly trained so far as goes with their mentality - I think they have proven themselves - those girls were taken, a new outfit came in. Here we were, contractors to the last day, 23 painters to finish one hall came in in October. With new girls coming in, old group going out, it was a difficult task. It was nothing to go down through the hall - you heard the skidding all across the floors, laughter, vulgarity. Mary Stevens, Elsie Shewell, most of those girls have gone. The house was in chaos most of the time.
- Mr. Petersen: But at any time, did you walk in and catch girls?
- Miss Dolan: Yes, Edna Brown, Elenor Gifford, they are back at the school now - I do not like to tell these things without a nurse or something here - We had no shades, there are large windows at Colony House - I went up the steps fairly quick - right in the big living room, Edna and Elenor were having a fine time grabbing each other; one girl here at the school molested a girl, her sister stepped up to the girl and tore her off - I think it was my friend Edna. Mrs. Beulah Tierney was matron then, she stepped in and took care of it. Then these boys out on placement. On Sundays - there were four spruce trees in front of Colony,

the hurricane has since taken them off -- on Sunday afternoon you cleared your perches -- for two summers, I told Mr. Needham, I told Dr. Kelly, there would be a lineup of truck drivers, Elsie Shewell waving and of course the boys stopped. Later I found truck drivers' numbers in scrap books

Mr. Adams: Miss Dolan, I asked you about Blanche Shewell, how long did she stay at the Colony?

Miss Dolan: I don't want to tell, I will have to involve another employee at the Colony.

Mr. Adams: Go ahead, if that is necessary, we want to know all the facts.

Miss Dolan: I will go on record if you want me to say it, and I will say it before a group of fine gentlemen outstanding in their fields. From 1949 to 1954 it was tough

Mr. Adams: How long was she there?

Miss Dolan: I don't know how long she was there.

Mr. Adams: While there, she ran away?

Miss Dolan: She ran away up here many times.

Mr. Adams: What experiences did you observe?

Miss Dolan: To my knowledge ...

Mr. Adams: Was she happy there?

Miss Dolan: I don't know about that.

Mr. Adams: Well, was she at all reminded at the Colony that her sister was at Waterbury?

Miss Dolan: I am very friendly with the girl's sister, Mrs. Archie _____
And Stella is a delightful girl ...

Mr. Adams: Was any mention made to Blanche Shewell about her sister's having been in Waterbury?

Miss Dolan: I don't think so. May I have the floor now?

Mr. Adams: Not yet, there are still some questions to ask.

Miss Dolan: Ask me anything you want, and then may I have the floor five minutes?

Mr. Adams: We will reserve five minutes for you.

Did you have any talk with Dr. Brooks about the sexual problem that allegedly exists at the Colony?

Miss Dolan: Mr. Mulcahy and Dr. Brooks always came together. The girls were downstairs, then would be called to my office. I recall taking Dr. Brooks to look at Shirley's developing room. Mr. Mulcahy was up in the corner with Dr. Brooks, and I think Dr. Brooks questioned Shirley, he did not question me. He asked her, "Blanche roomed with you, why did she run away?" Shirley said, "why should I know" and then Shirley said, - and I am not passing the buck, anybody knows Katherine Dolan is as straight as ... - "we don't have anything down here Blanche wants".

Mr. Finn: Miss Dolan, you recognize as your superior Mr. Russell, having charge of this institution - would you tell me this, please: Why, why, if he writes you, do you not answer his letter?

Miss Dolan: (pointing to a sheet of paper in her hands): I think this enters in - may I read this:

Miss Dolan then read a prepared statement. After reading it, she folded it to put away into her handbag. The stenographer then stated that she had not taken the statement down in full, assuming that it would be given to the boards as part of the proceedings. Miss Dolan offered to read it again, but it was agreed that the stenographer should be allowed to copy it immediately. Miss Dolan accompanied the stenographer and first read the beginning of the statement and then handed it to the stenographer for copying. Miss Dolan affixed her signature to the copy of the statement, and her title. Then both Miss Dolan and the stenographer returned to the conference room.

"To the Superintendent of Brandon Training School and to the Honorable Members of the Board of Institutions and of Mental Health.

"Upon your request I appear at this joint meeting. For many years I have given of my time and energy first to the correction and then to the betterment of the Colony House. Those were the best years of my life, and I take pride in my accomplishments and the good I have done for these girls. After all these years of effort, I now feel that the Superintendent of the Brandon Training School, and perhaps others, are endeavoring to destroy me and my work in the Colony House by direction and indirection, so that I have been pretty well driven to nervous exhaustion.

"I desire to continue my work in the Colony House. I request the renewal of the cooperation by the proper state authorities, and that I be permitted to carry on my work with these girls as I have for so many years in the past.

"If after all these years you desire to discharge me, then please openly and clearly make your assignment of reasons for this action, so that I may ask for proper appeal and review.

"I have always held Mr. Dale in the highest esteem, and he has been very nice and cooperative with me. I think he is as pleased with the accomplishments through the years of Colony House, as I am proud of the development of Colony House.

"In my present nervous and anxious state, I prefer to file this statement and then withdraw. I think I am entitled to that courtesy.

Respectfully submitted
Katherine M. Dolan, Colony House Supervisor"

Dec. 12, 1955.

Miss Dolan:

I am happy to have met the members of the boards. If we never meet again, to Mr. Dale and to the members of both boards: It's too bad you all feel about the Colony as you do. All you get is second hand material. My knowledge has been ignored. I served eight years of my girlhood there at the school and I took over the Colony here after a matron who had had a house of ill fame. Mr. Dale must remember the scandalous mess - five girls returned to Brandon for associating with these men, we had three pregnancies at the Colony, one death - an epileptic, a lady to the manor born. She went out every day to her work, never had a spell, but between 11 and 5 in the morning Katherine Dolan took care of her and her medication. Then she died, suddenly. I was forced to hold that body from 6:30 in the morning until 12:30 noon ... This is just one more bitter scene. If you read my personnel rating, I would not be capable of getting another position ...

Mr. Finn:

Miss Dolan, I asked you a question, would you care to give us the information? Why do you not answer your correspondence with the head of the institution?

Miss Dolan:

I figure Mr. Russell has inherited this bump (?). I am sorry for you (turned to Mr. Russell). I looked forward to Mr. Russell as an educator, a man who would throw the bubbles in the water and be big enough to ignore petty material and come down - the doors never close, I am not on parade only one day of the week. After Mr. Russell handed me my personnel rating sheet, after 33 complete years of loyalty, loyalty to my state, to its property and to its human element, to write me off was a rather drastic thing in my mind. To him it must have been a toy balloon, to me it is a wrecking situation, it still is, it still is. 1935, fifteen years under Dr. Allan, and I will go this far to say, that from 1937 on there was not one five-year period, Mr. Petersen, that I could not have asked for an investigation as to the whys and wherefores of the condition of the girls, their clothing and the way they were thrown at me from Brandon State School. That I can prove, 18,000 people in Rutland City can prove it - that is the reason why I did not answer the rating sheet, and then beg me to sign it, to try and get me to sit down at my desk, - you don't think anybody would do such a thing, you would not do it, Mr. Russell. You never came near us at Christmas, the girls had one party after another. Mr. Dale, contact the R. v. Butterfield, the Rev. Rice. Bishop Joyce spent New Year's Even in my house, not in my office, in with the girls - we served refreshments ..

Mr. Finn:

In other words, you did not answer Mr. Russell's letters because you resented the rating he had given you?

Miss Dolan:

Absolutely. You would have done the same thing.

Mr. Adams:

One thing that has come to our attention - what did you do about Thanksgiving Dinner?

Miss Dolan:

Nothing. Mrs. Curtis, your social worker, told at Sol Myers, "no need of going to the Colony, there will be no Thanksgiving there". Then she went over to Terenzini's and told there - "there will be no Thanksgiving at the Colony".

Mr. Adams: What did you say when you heard this?

Miss Dolan: I did nothing.

Mr. Adams: You did not requisition the food in the usual manner?

Miss Dolan: I did not, we bought all our own food. When I discovered what Mrs. Curtis had said - and I say Mrs. Curtis advisedly - I have no better sample of my work than those girls.

Mr. Adams: Stick to this, please - did you do any looking into this matter as to what Miss Curtis said - did you call the school?

Miss Dolan: Why should I look into anything I am handed here? When they tell me they are not going to give me any Thanksgiving, I leave it there. I know you inherited this, Mr. Russell, it existed long before you came.

Mr. Adams: Does anybody have any questions, does anybody else want to ask anything?

Miss Dolan: Remember now, I am telling you. Mr. Bowen H. Shattuck came to see me - I have listened to all these people. Mrs. Curtis told all over the State of Vermont, "the Colony is inferior, it does not count in our program, it is not going to count". She told Louise Wood - I have fan mail from the girls that would fill this room - please believe me, I am telling you the truth, on everything.

Mr. Holmes should not have a strike against Katherine Dolan. Mr. Shattuck, a minister I had never met, in October 1947 he came here and asked, "Is Miss Dolan here" - "You are talking with Miss Dolan". I intend to defend my religion, my character. I am considered a slut. Which one of these gentlemen, Mr. Dale, gave Katherine Dolan the pledge? If she was to be allowed to keep the job, she would have to take the pledge?

Mr. Adams: What are you talking about?

Miss Dolan: Miss Dolan had to take the pledge. Two high officials came from Montpelier, made her take the pledge "or you wouldn't be working here now", that's what Walter Bittle said to me. And Mr. Holmes, he said, "if I believed all I heard about you, I would have more respect for the slut in the street". I am not looking for converts to the Catholic religion, if I want converts I'll not go to these girls, I will go to the intelligentsia. Religion is a heritage like everything else. But I intend to take this as far as I can go.

Mr. Adams: It is getting late. We promised that this meeting would be over by noon, and we still must discuss the matter.

Miss Dolan: I am sorry that this has to happen just before Christmas. I have a million things I could say, don't I have a right to know what is going to be done?

Mr. Adams: No one has taken any action at all ...

Miss Dolan: A year from today I was shut up in a room with Mr. Russell, Mrs. Spiess, ...

Mr. Petersen: Is there anyone in this room who has asked you a discourteous question?

Miss Dolan: I respect you all, Mr. Petersen - in 34 years, and I have worked all my life at this - now I am costing the taxpayer 45¢ a day per girl..

Mr. Adams: We are taking no official action, no affirmative action as a result of this meeting until we have had an opportunity to discuss the matter further, but we must have some time now to discuss it. You are going to know what our next step will be. You are going to have every protection, you are going to have every protection under any conceivable action we might take. If we need to see you again, you will have the right to say whatever you have to say, the right to see us ..

Miss Dolan: I will never meet with you again without an attorney. I have an attorney

Mr. Adams: We shall be glad to have him meet with us.

Miss Dolan: You do not know the facts, my material is all together

Mr. Adams: We must ask that we have a chance to discuss this. It is close to noon now.

Miss Dolan: A merry Christmas to each and any of you from my heart. I hold no animosity against anyone. I am glad I am the one who is being hurt and not the one who is responsible for all this. This is nothing new, Mr. Needham, he sat at his desk, he turned my paper over and froze me in - if I worked 30 years longer, if I stayed 30 years more here, I would never have gone any further - Miss Hutchins, Miss Irma Hutchins, told me that. Mr. Needham, he turned my paper over, he froze me in ...

Dr. Angell: Mr. Needham is gone, Miss Dolan.....

With this the meeting broke up, everybody leaving the room.

BRANDON TRAINING SCHOOL
Brandon - Vermont

JOINT MEETING - BOARD OF INSTITUTIONS & BOARD OF MENTAL HEALTH
Held December 12, 1955, at 11 a.m., in the office of the
Superintendent of Brandon Training School.

Present: Dr. Angell, Mr. Adams, Mr. Finn, Mr. Petersen,
Mr. Houston, Mr. Dale, Mr. Douglas, Mr. Russell
Miss Dolan.

At entry of Miss Dolan introductions were made.

Mr. Dale: Miss Dolan, these gentlemen represent the joint Boards of Institution and Mental Health. Dr. Osgood broke a couple of ribs and is unable to be here, Mr. Butler is in Florida. Mr. Adams will represent the joint boards, to size up what can be done with Colony House. It was felt you should be here to express your opinion of the matter.

Mr. Adams: The Board of Mental Health is charged with the supervision, overlooking and overseeing the care given at the institutions of the State, of which Brandon State School is one. And of course the Colony comes under the Brandon State School. The patients at the Colony are by that reason our responsibility. We also have an interest in the treatment, supervision and care to be given to inmates at Brandon State School, and we have an interest in seeing that the facilities of the school and institution are used to the fullest and the best for that care. Because of that we have from time to time paid some heed to the matter of discharges from the Colony, in the matter of sending persons from Brandon to the Colony, and in that connection you probably are conscious of the fact that we have been confronted with a situation that we do not know the answer to. Our purpose today is to sit with the Board of Institutions, the Commissioner and Mr. Russell, to see what we should do, as a further step to solving a situation which we do not think should continue to exist.

Specific situations we want to bring out, to see what your point is on these situations:

First, the matter of the discharge of Miss McKinney, at the Colony House under your charge for several months if not years, who was considered for discharge in July of this year by the Board of Mental Health, and who at that time was presumably given a discharge. We are informed that she is not discharged, that she cannot be discharged until her accounts are straightened out. We are informed that the request was made of you - as the person who keeps her accounts - that the request was made of you that the accounts be straightened out to the extent necessary for her discharge, but that this has not been attained despite several requests that it be done.

We are also concerned about reports, and we will hear your story later - stories regarding immoral incidents, comments about the sending of

deviates from Brandon State School to the Colony, persons who we understand you refer to as homos, perverts, etc. If there is any authenticity to such a story, we want to know. We want to know what is being sent down there, want to know why that accusation is made.

Then we are concerned with the report received from our psychiatrist that while he has any consulting authorities with our board, no further person can be sent to the Colony until this matter can be cleared up.

Would you care to give us your opinions on these matters?

Miss Dolan: As far as Marjorie McKinney is concerned, I think I took that up with the auditors, Mr. Dale, Mr. Mills, and that other one, Mr. Daniels. They have always been at the Colony. May I say this, that after very close to 26 years of service - as I said to you Mr. Dale in your office, that we have lost not one dollar in the accounts over all these years, and there is no account on the books today that I will not be able to collect, and I will collect it myself. I made the charge, and I made the contact, and I do accept the responsibility to the fullest. I have gone so far as to say to the auditors - for every dollar I lose on these accounts you may subtract one for whatever is due me in sick leave, vacations, red letter day, 24-hours on matron's day, etc.

Mr. Adams: But what is the reason for not collecting the accounts?

Miss Dolan: The reason must be obvious to all of you - after a number of years, and when all the props are pulled out from under you. Oh, it was quietly, very easily done, and we have been discharging girls three at a group, a girl goes today, girls have been going until you are reduced down to two. The whole thing is upsetting not only to me, as each girl sees the other go out. In October three went together. After pretty near 34 years I should be told, I think what is going to happen. With Dr. Cohen I discussed Greta Alger's case, the day she came to the Colony. Dr. Cohen said: Miss Dolan, I doubt that Greta is material for the Colony, she neither reads nor writes, is small of stature. I asked about her I.Q. I was told it was somewhere near 48 ... I asked: is she a moral problem? He said: not to our knowledge at the office.

Greta Alger from the day she entered the Colony until a month before she leaves - Greta has gotten in her evening's writing practice, spelling her name, giving receipts, anything she needed to know. Today, nothing but progress. When she left me I bought her a series of books, the Little Red Hen, etc. They are still at the house.

Mr. Adams: Might we come back to my items - we seem to have gotten off the track: I want to know what is holding up the collection of the accounts.

Miss Dolan: There is nothing really.

Mr. Adams: Have you collected the account?

Miss Dolan: No.

Mr. Adams: How long do you think it will take?

Miss Dolan: Oh, I wouldn't dare say - have not had the time.

Mr. Adams: Marjorie left when?

Miss Dolan: My accounts are in Rutland, I would not want to say without going back there ...

Mr. Russell: Marjorie was given her discharge July 29th.

Mr. Adams: Is it a question of time?

Miss Dolan: It has been, as I said, I handle persons ..

Mr. Adams: Is time any different now than two years ago, three years ago?

Miss Dolan: Mr. Dale knows the setup of the Colony. There is always someone employed at Loretta Home, St. Peter's rectory. I let accounts go up to a certain amount, then get busy collecting for everybody.

Mr. Adams: What has happened in these three months - if it was lack of time - when can we have our account?

Miss Dolan: I will do my best ..

Mr. Adams: Can we look forward to having it a week from today?

Miss Dolan: I do not want to point it that way - let me see, today is the 12th, why can't we say by January 1st. I'll close as many accounts as I can between now and December 31st.

Mr. Petersen: Getting this money, Miss Dolan, will it entail more than just calling up these people to send the amount? So much time has passed.

Miss Dolan: It is just one of those things ...

Mr. Petersen: I do not understand. This money has been earned quite some time ago. Surely just a telephone call is necessary.

Miss Dolan: Oh no, I go there in person, discuss it with the Mother Superior.

Mr. Petersen: The way I see this, the longer you delay this matter, you are delaying this young woman's condition - a telephone call would bring the check.

Miss Dolan: I will try, talk it over with the Mother Superior. They have never paid me any money, always in check, as our books almost from the day I took over Again I remind you that from February 10, 1930 up to this morning accounts were never allowed to run - may I have the floor for a moment?

Mr. Adams: Not quite yet. You had notice from Mr. Russell about these accounts?

Miss Dolan: Yes, they are in the files down there and

Mr. Adams: Now let me ask you three things that we want to cover here -

We have heard, we have heard it personally too while we were there, Miss Dolan, while visiting the institutions, comments from you, and we have heard you have made comments to others, that the school - that any girl the school sends down to the Colony is classed as a deviate from accepted sexual practice. What truth is there to such a charge? Is it so? and if so, can you name names and point out specific situations so that we can find out and investigate?

Miss Dolan: Are you at all familiar with Beatrice Godabout's affair? Her case history is here at the school, I only saw an abstract from it. Beatrice was turned down by every department, the sisters at the House of Good , Catholic Charities, did not accept her for their program. She was in and out of Waterbury before she came to the Colony. In Rutland she worked in some nice homes. It was nothing to find Beatrice washing underwear - it was the woman's underwear she had taken off herself and had stolen which she was washing. She worked at the Mitchells. One day Mr. Mitchell was resting upstairs when he heard Beatrice telephone. He went down to Mrs. Mitchell by another door and told her she should go and liste. Mrs. Mitchell got rid of her. She went out one Sunday night, just walked out, nobody checked her. I called the State Police

Mr. Adams: Was there something about this phone conversation we could go on?

Miss Dolan: Nobody traced it.

Mr. Adams: How do you know that it was wrong?

Miss Dolan: Everybody in Rutland knows what Beatrice is. She must be a great problem now ..

Mr. Adams: If she talked at the Mitchells at the phone - is there anything in that conversation to indicate that she was a homo or pervert?

Miss Dolan: Beatrice was a prostitute

Mr. Adams: What about the phone conversation, do you know what it was about? Do you know the date that this happened?

Miss Dolan: The Brandon books should show it, she was gone three nights.

Mr. Adams: But the phone conversation!

Miss Dolan: That was while she worked at the Mitchell home.

Mr. Adams: You have had a girl named Shewell down there during the last year - Blanche Shewell - how long dis she stay?

Miss Dolan: I don't know, Mr. Adams.