

Brandon State School
6/24/55 Colony Conference.

over and concerning which she said: "Sex problems: when a girl comes to the Colony after having passed her formative years at the Brandon State School, she should have no sex problems; no girl that has sex problems should be sent to me."

13 Miss Dolan then referred to Dr. Brooks as the intern who was "glad and willing" to write a letter to Mr. Dale about her. When told that Dr. Brooks is the senior physician at VSH, she commented that she had been told that he was an intern, that he had driven in and driven out, she was not allowed to talk to him until the very last time. When asked where she got her information, that Mr. Russell wanted to know how she knew about the papers on his desk at BSS, she stated, "I cannot answer that question now, I am not quite up to it, but I will answer it legally, I will tell before my lawyer". She continued: "I will also tell who told the story regarding Mr. Bittle and Katherine Dolan, and how I kept my job". Also, that BSS has much to answer for, that it has "seven bank books to answer for". When Mr. Russell asked what seven bank books she was referring to, Miss Dolan stated that seven bank books were stolen, that it took place before Mr. Russell "was in the field at all", that he, Mr. Russell, was listening to the wrong earphones and would be sorry; that Mr. Russell should inquire from the intelligentsia of the city of Rutland what they thought of her, that the city of Rutland had supported the colony for 30 years. To the comment that the city of Rutland had received full value, Miss Dolan asked how her "\$6.00 a day girls" compared with the 25¢ an hour rate at Brandon.

14 Miss Dolan asked whether this personnel rating would take her increment away. Mr. Russell stated that he did not know whether she was due for one, and that there would be another rating six months hence. Miss Dolan stated that she would not sign the rating sheet today, but that she would send it to the school; that all this had been done to her before, that those who did it got their reward.

15 Miss Dolan also asked about her vacation, that Miss Hutchins had told her about the thirty day limitation, also that Miss Hutchins had told her that if she, Katherine Dolan, worked 30 years more at the colony, her salary would not move from the bracket it was in now. Mr. Russell asked Miss Dolan whether she had reached the maximum of her position, but Miss Dolan stated she did not know.

16 Miss Dolan then asked Mr. Russell what the outcome of the colony was to be. Mr. Russell told Miss Dolan that there was a psychiatric order that no more girls were to be sent to the colony. Miss Dolan mentioned Dr. Brooks, and Mr. Russell confirmed that he cannot go against that medical order. Miss Dolan's comment was: "Then Dr. Brooks is the man who broke the colony". To Mr. Russell's comment that "we are having little success with the colony at the present time", Miss Dolan replied that Linnie Hendee was a "brute", that Miss Sharkey was in the hospital with bursitis because of Linnie, that in 34 years of handling these girls this was the first instance where she had had one girl strike another; that the day it happened, Beulah Noyes was at the Colony and told how Linnie had bit her and pulled her hair.

17 Miss Dolan called it "scandalous" that there were only 13 girls at the colony now, that she knew what Dr. Brooks was doing, that "they figured the only way to dislodge me is to close this. All right. I know what is

intended. They started it in '47. In '46 they went after Bert Barnard, they finished him." She described Mr. Barnard's strenuous work schedule, then said: "the same 'gang' that took after him went after me. Appointments were made to see Governor Gibson, I was to be the whetstone that sharpened the axe for Barnard, but I did not carry through as was anticipated. Mr. Dale knows what happened, a great many men know what happened. Go ask them. It's the same gang, just three new faces. The same politicians, they think they have a new broom now to sweep this out. I know what will come in here."

17. An incident with Mr. Mulcahy at the time of Miss Dolan's brother's death was recounted in detail. Reference was again made to seven bank books that would have to be accounted for one way or another, that she saw the last person to pick them up, that she would not name her now, that she was young

18. That the sisters of the convent called her and warned her not to make a move until she had come out of the shock from her brother's death.

19. That Mr. Greenleaf called on her after her brother's death, suggesting that she might want to retire, but she told him she needed her job more than ever now and would not retire. That some of the publicity she had had was meant well but did her a great deal of harm.

20. Miss Dolan asked Mr. Russell where he would get girls for the Colony, and he explained that there was only Brandon to get them from, that Dr. Brooks' instructions had to be followed. When asked by Miss Dolan on what grounds Dr. Brooks based his decision, Mr. Russell replied, "on grounds of the present leadership here". Miss Dolan then went into a long recital of what the girls were when they came, stating finally: "he recommends that no girl come here while I am here, I know what is in back of that".

21. Miss Dolan then explained what she meant by her demand on the girls to "leave Brandon on the doorstep", that she knew Brandon, that she did not want the girls to bring messages, stories, gossip from Brandon. That when she worked at Brandon, when she took the girls from the dormitories to the kitchen, she would tell them to leave the dormitories on the doorstep of the service building, not to bring their quarrels and stories into the kitchen, to start a new day there and forget the dormitory. Miss Dolan talked on about the love of gossip of the girls, how they make up stories, how they have to be controlled, etc.

Mr. Russell broke up the conference at 4:45 p.m.

Superintendent

Miss D: Yes. Of course, March earnings in the amount of \$136.00 did not come into my hands for the March 31st accounts, but that was probably my fault, because I have not billed the Mother before March 31. Of course, there has been the arrear on Dorothy Picknell.

Mr. R: What was the reason for Dorothy's removal from the Convent?

Miss D: Well - she skimmed the cream of the milk - in the morning, the sisters would find no cream left on the milk for their coffee. And they had prepared hash for supper one day and found Dorothy eating it off the platter, scooping it off with her hands. Also, she was getting very defiant towards some of the older nuns. In fact, Dorothy had taken over, she had been there too long.

Mr. R: When did Dorothy last work there? She did not seem to remember.

Miss D: Why, she should know that. The sisters go on Retreat in August. The Mother Superior asked if I could possibly give them a replacement in September. The younger sisters have to do the work during the summer. Shirley went there a day a week to help in the laundry, she did the linens. Margaret Anderson is doing fine, she is there six days a week. Now at Easter time they have other girls. They will also accept other girls, they even tolerated Pearl Vasseur. Now, the Loretta Home is under new management. A group of French sisters has taken over the houses for the aged, and the Province sends down lay nuns to do the cooking and everything, and they need no outside help. In other words, we have lost no positions for any reason other than a new setup.

Mr. R: Then Dorothy left the Convent when?

Miss D: She left the Convent in June.

Mr. R: What did she do then?

Miss D: Oh, nothing, except stir up plenty of mischief, what-have-you. Oh, she

would work with me, if I asked her. If I did the washing, she would do it with me, she would not work with the girls at all.

Mr. R: You did not try to place her then?

Miss D: No, I would not.

Mr. R: Did you ask her return to Brandon?

Miss D: Brandon. No I did not. All they did to me in Brandon. They threw everything, everything that was nothing at me from '49 on. There was Elsie Shewell. We were stripping the porch that year, but she would sit on the porch, with her dress up to her knees, rocking. And if you had to get by her, to move the furniture, she would not move for you. The boys from Brandon on placement, Edna Brown's brother, Pearl Vasseur's brother, they parked under our spruce trees out here. If I went for Gray Lady's work, my brother would be parked in his car, watching the place.

The Dorothy Picknell. Dorothy can verify this. Dorothy was sent to me with a suitcase of contaminated wet clothes, put into a dirty basket-weave suitcase, with everybody else's clothes but her own. She sat in a chair for one hour, would not speak, would not take her coat off. If a girl comes and we know it, we watch the road for her arrival, we make coffee, perhaps we have some pie left, we prepare a lunch, sort of breaking the ice, give her an opportunity to visit. I said to Dorothy, "I have a cup of coffee ready for you, or perhaps you would like tea, come and have a slice of toast". She did not answer. In the meantime, there was that suitcase on the stairs, it smelled to high heaven. After about an hour, she finally came into the kitchen. Mr. Maloney, the social worker, when he brought her said to me: "give this one the work. Every man in Middlebury knows she is sterilized".

Mr. R: But you did not have anything like this recently?

What about Linnie Hendee?

Miss D: Well, I resent Linnie Hendee.

Mr. R: There is now an outright mutiny in Brandon on the part of the girls. They know that as soon as they get here, their complete history is known, it is thrown in their faces. When they arrive they are told they are not wanted.

Miss D: How would I know their histories?

Mr. R: The girls say it comes down with the preceding girl, and from then on the new girl is classified. They are reminded of their painful history and past mistakes. Why, you will remember your own comment, about the flowers, the plants and the weeds in your garden - that you cultivate the flowers, you water the plants and ignore the weeds.

Miss D: Well, unfortunately I am with you three people here alone. A girl is not taken to task, she is not reminded of one God-blessed thing, until they resent things, until they resent correction. There was Lucille Bresette. She told me she knew exactly what she was supposed to do before she struck Rutland, she did not intend to do anything further. So she did nothing but sit. Yet, I had ingenuity enough to help her to the point where she could open her hand, handling a rubber ball. She had nothing but guidance here. Blanche Shewell. She has taken one hour of my time every morning counting cash - up to a dollar bill. So far as these girls are concerned, they know nothing. We are tormented here showing them how to use toilet articles, even toilet paper. I will never allow a \$6. a day girl to wash a pair of panties all smeared and spattered - that Dorothy Picknell, what she did one Christmas eve on a chair - When a girl three, four and five times will refuse to do what she is told, and not do a God-blessed thing in this house, and a \$6. a day girl is supposed to be the one who....

Mr. R: Miss Dolan, what I am troubled about here is a feeling, after listening to you, after reading Dr. Brooks' report - that the Colony House has lost its function. Let me read this to you:

(read Dr. Brooks' statement on Blanche Shewell)

You understand, this is a dictated statement by Dr. Brooks.

Miss D: Well, where do you want me to appear to argue my case, in the Senate?

Mr. R: What I am wondering about is how are we to fulfill the purpose of the Colony if the girls don't want to come down here?

Miss D: You don't have to worry - this has been building up since 1949, they don't want to come here simply because they know there is work here to do. Blanche Shewell has not been out of bed one morning on time. I tell Shirley - if Blanche is sleepy, don't wake her up, she will hear you make the bed, the mattress being turned, she will eventually wake up. Not one word has been said ..

Mr. R: What good does that do? Doesn't the program here need some sort of leadership? About Linnie Hendee, you said you were not going to have anything to do with it - aren't you the matron here?

Miss D: Well, sometimes I wonder who is the matron here.

Mr. R: Now, the statement from Dr. Brooks is that of the professional man, not a layman - by the way, how do you feel about Dr. Brooks?

Miss D: Dr. Brooks to me is a very fine gentleman, he came into the house in dignity and left in dignity.

Mr. R: But what about your feeling about homosexuality among our girls?

Miss D: Well. Shirley steps up to Beatrice Godbout to correct her for pawing over her sister Beverly good and plenty, that is one reason. Blanche comes in with all kinds of things, telling about Beverly. I tell the girls, accept no stories from Brandon, shut your ears. I tell the new girls - leave Brandon at the door mat.

Mr. R: Why should Brandon be left at the door mat?

Miss D: I know Brandon, I gave eight years of my life, the best part of my life, to Brandon.

Mr. R: What is Brandon in your opinion?

Miss D: An institution for the unfortunate, from broken homes, for the mentally retarded.

Mr. R: But you are convinced of promiscuous homosexuality at Brandon?

Miss D: I feel this way: I personally know one person, Alice Tripp, who was used by Ruth Merchant every night, until her mother, Mrs. Thomas, put a stop to that. Homosexuality - it was a fight up there to keep one girl from the other - "I want to do your hair". Your bathrooms are a source of trouble -

Mr. R: What is the reputation now?

Miss D: I would not commit myself, only in the presence of the courts.

Mr. R: What about the girls we have sent to you lately?

Miss D: How many have you sent me?

Mr. M: Blanche, Linnie came down here when you had been here only two or three days..

Miss D: Remember what my work here since 1930 has been - and what it has been since 1949 - the Middlebury girls, Dorothy Picknell - college students, married men ...

Mr. R: What has that to do with the Colony? Does it mean that any girl, because she comes from Brandon, is condemned?

Miss D: Well, if anyone at Brandon or Montpelier or Waterbury is after Dolan's hide. I have completed my 34th year, and I stand on my record.

Mr. R: But I am not impressed. The echelons in this house, the flowers, the plants and the weeds, are definite evidence of prejudice. You state that since 1949 you have not had reputable material from Brandon. Yet, your function is to train the girls here.

Miss D: I've done a good job.

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Mr. R: I understand that practically all the girls' shopping is being done by Shirley. Why?

Miss D: Shirley is downstreet, practically on the sidewalk. Blanche Shewell is not yet allowed downstreet. I asked her, "you have been out on placement, have you gone shopping alone?" She said, "I have gone downstreet with an attendant, I have told her what I wanted, and she paid for it". When Blanche has been downtown, I have sent a key girl with her.

Mr. R: Isn't that part of the program, for the girls to go down shopping?

Miss D: Could I let Blanche go down alone? I doubt it, not for the first six to eight weeks. I have had girls come here that have embarrassed the girls. You give them 75¢ in small coins, when they pay for an article, they would drop every bit of change into the clerk's hand and she would pick out what she wanted.

Mr. R: A program could be outlined on shopping, that instead of having Shirley make the purchases alone, the two girls together make their purchases, have their shopping experience once or twice a week.

Miss D: Four or six girls went downstreet Monday night. Blanche picked out her own hat. I told the girls, "take Blanche over to Howe's Coffee Shop and eat out tonight", Linnie Hendee has been out with her own sister. These girls have shopped, Mr. Russell, please, please.

I think, Mr. Russell, that you better do a little more business with me personally and get down with me a little more than you do. I have wondered why I have been ignored. These girls who do not want the Colony - I don't tickle nobody under the chin. That flower garden - unfortunately here is where your flower garden came in - the old girls will come in the garden - you live and care for the child you adore - you don't want your two girls to grow up in wildness and carelessness, so you watch over them and keep them under discipline. So when we have

girls who come from broken homes, because the mothers want to go out to work instead of staying home and taking care of their homes, the girl I want to see top the ladder and amount to something is the girl who does what I want her to. Another girl who does not want me I am not going to force in anything.

Mr. R: But isn't that part of the training program? Then the girl who is willing to play ball, you will accept her; if she is not willing, she is rejected.

Miss D: What would you do - go on and let her slap you?

Mr. R: That reminds me - two girls said you slapped their faces - what about Dorothy Picnell?

Miss D: Dorothy came home from church very much later than the other girls. I asked her, "where have you been?" She said, "I stopped at the cut rate drugstore". "Did anybody tell you to stop there?" "Nobody did". "Yet you stopped, and here is dinner practically over." With that she took off her coat and a glass slipped out, with the picture of a nude woman painted on it. I asked her, "where did you get this". She said, "I found it". Here it was completely new, with the price tag still on it. She undertook to tell me plenty, and I would not have it.

Mr. R: Have you ever slapped all the girls at the same time? She said, once at the dinner table, all got their faces slapped, all 18 girls.

Miss D: No, I never did. No sensible woman would do this. Is that what you think?

Mr. R: No, I am asking questions. That is what the girls say.

Miss D: Now, the other girls, Linnie Hendee, Blanche Shewell - Mr. Sullivan picked her out of the gutter. I know her family intimately. She has run away more times than one can count. They found her in a gully with a broken ankle. Mr. Sullivan asked her - "Blanche, how much good do you get out

of this? I picked you up not more than a couple of months ago, you are going back to Brandon now, what do you do it for?" And all Blanche said - "I want to have a baby like my sister Elsie".

Mr. R: And what is the matter with that?

Miss D: Elsie did have a baby, you know.

Mr. R: Yes, but isn't it the ultimate destiny of every woman to have a baby?

Miss D: Yes, normally, but what else would this be but prostitution?

Mr. R: But here again, what protection do the girls have if their histories are used here against them?

Miss D: Nothing is referred to - until the minute she tells me what she is going to do and what not.

Mr. R: Tell me what you are going to do then. If we cannot fill the Rutland Colony with girls willing to stay, then we are failing.

Miss D: My girls have gone out to the public properly dressed, uniform, stockings, the proper shoes, and proper apron, a winter coat when it is cold. Blanche has not even been told that I would rather not have her wear ankle socks out. I have asked her, "Do the girls all wear them in Brandon?" "Yes." "If that is all right in Brandon, it is all right with Miss Dolan".

Mr. R: But that is not right. If your girls are supposed to wear stockings, your judgment should stand.

Miss D: But if I told her to put her socks away, she will tell me "I'm going to run away".

Mr. R: We do not have this problem in Brandon. I don't see any girls in Brandon saying "I am not going to do this", how could any matron allow such a thing. But Blanche Shewell should wear what?

Miss D: Stockings.

Mr. R: Was she told to do so?

Miss D: I have never opened my mouth.

Mr. R: But why not?

Miss D: Because I will not be told by any girl "I'll do this, and I won't do that". I walked down to Linnie Hendee one day, it was 1:30, she is standing at the sink, with a sink full of grease. I said, "Linnie, sometime Miss Dolan is going to send you out at 50¢ an hour; a woman finding a greasy sink, blocking up her sink, will say "I am not willing to pay you 50¢ for blocking up my sink". Why don't you let that out of the sink. I will show you myself how you wash this sink. I'll wash and you dry and watch." - She started to cry, "I am not going to stay here, I did not want to come anyway. So I asked her, "Then why did you come here?"

Mr. R: It is not the girls who decide who is to come to the Colony. It is the psychiatrist and the psychologist and the social worker and the other officers of the school, and the Board of Mental Health. Dr. Brooks, how do you feel about Dr. Brooks?

Miss D: Dr. Brooks? Oh, the little man. Dr. Brooks is only going along. This gentleman with you told me once, a dog was either black or he was all white, but I was neither.

Mr. M: I deny that.

Miss D: I stand firmly by that.

Mr. M: I still maintain that you should retract that statement.

Miss D: Did you tell me that _____ was watching which way my brother would go, that I would have to leave?

Mr. M: I never did such a thing.

Miss D: Did you stand over me less than 20 minutes after my brother was buried, and you were waiting to take out two girls on placement, and I said to you, "you do not expect to do business this morning, when the last person I had is not even covered in his grave", and you insisted on

going ahead just the same?

Mr. M: I cannot remember such a conversation.

Miss D: All right, this is Holy Thursday and before God I am a liar.

Mr. M: I do not like that at all.

Miss D: All right, I am a vicious woman.

Mr. R: This better stop right here. My main interest with Miss Dolan is the training program here.

Miss D: I have done a masterful job.

Mr. R: The job is the main thing.

Miss D: I am doing my job well.

Mr. R: What disturbs me is that attitude towards the girls coming down here. The whole pattern is the same all the way through.

Miss D: When Beatrice Godbout was brought down to me, I asked about the history behind her. ~~XX~~

I was left Sunday night, Monday night, Tuesday night, and Wednesday I drove to Brandon myself. Beatrice left Monday night, gone all night, called in the morning to be picked up, all day Monday she slept, she was with _____, the turnkey. Monday night she went outover to his house again, but he did not keep the date; the little police officer who took her description said to me, "from the description, I picked up this same girl at the lime kiln in Leicester Junction with several boys". Tuesday night she went and was gone all night. She sang, she danced all day when she got home. Wednesday night I went to Mr. Needham. It took four girls plus Mr. Needham, they chased her around the house, over to the Old Colony, back again. They caught her behind the door. Four girls walked her down, I opened the car door.

Mabel Jerome - Mrs. Desautel and _____ from the Weeks School were visiting. They saw Mabel. "Why Mabel, are you down here? How long have you been here?" They asked me, "how did you get Mabel Jerome? She was transferred from the Burlington orphanage because she is a firebug and we transferred her to Brandon for the same reason." Two and a half years she was here. A firebug.

Mr. R: Did she ever set fires?

Miss D: Not here.

Rose Emery - she might be another one who did not like it here. She opened the bedroom window down here - she danced the hoochie koochie, she did a job on the dining room floor -

If you feel I am not qualified, guilty of any charge, go ahead, bring me before the proper people, and I'll get a lawyer, but I will not take a beating after 34 years, after the record they have, after all the accomplishments and improvements at the Colony, I won't take this.

Mr. R: Do you feel that we have any girls that would qualify for the program down here?

Miss D: I said to Mr. Needham: I know very little about the girls and about the program at the school, take two days in the week in any dormitory you want to put me in, let me get the feel of your girls before they come, let me work with them, spend a couple of days with them out of each week, talk to these girls... Mr. Needham said, "I will see what I can do". To Mr. Mosher, the auditor, I said the same thing, "I don't know these girls, I don't understand their attitude".

Mr. R: Don't you think a psychologist, a psychiatrist, a Board of Mental Health are adequate criteria for sending a girl down here?

Miss D: Let me work on one of your dormitories one day a week to get the feel of those girls.

Mr. R: And what would happen down here in the meantime?

Miss D: Well, that's a question, of course.

Mr. R: I think I can rely upon the staff to choose the right girls.

But coming back to the issue at hand. You say that Blanche has not been told what is expected of her. Why not? Blanche is your responsibility. This attitude of yours goes through your entire story - if the new admission is not attractive, ignore the weed.

Miss D: No, Mr. Russell.

Mr. R: So far I have heard nothing else from you.

Miss D: I know politics should not enter into the Colony, but when you came, the people here in Rutland told me: Your peaceful days have arrived, this man is an educator, and educators are something pretty special. There were your various articles, your speeches: This man is an educator, I was told, you are all right now. So Mr. Russell, let me ask you this Holy Week, Holy Thursday - work with me and accept Katherine Dolan. Work together, not as anybody else gives it to you, Mr. Dale, the Board of Mental Health, and the Board of Institutions, Dr. Brooks, unfortunately, I have no strikes against him, he is a splendid little man..

Mr. R: But Miss Dolan, you are giving me a proportion to work with Miss Dolan, what you want me to be then is a politician, and you just told me I am not a politician, that I am an educator. I don't appreciate your logic. I feel that there is too much arguing, too much ignoring of the problem, too established a hierarchy here -

Miss D: What hierarchy?

Mr. R: Cora Chandler, Shirley Mailhotte - these are your farward line, any new girl that comes down has that to face.

Miss D: I think you are wrong, I do not want friction in the house, but you should

tell the girl before she comes down - I don't know what you tell them now and I care less - she should be built up to the fact that she does live here six months free of charge, she is to work with Miss Dolan, follow Miss Dolan's bidding, to follow Miss Dolan around the house, to learn all she can before Miss Dolan puts her on some placement.

Mr. R: The girls are told that in essence, that they have an opportunity here.

Miss D: They certainly don't act it when they strike here. And I won't stand for chewing gum. And that Linnie Hendee. Any girl - and I have 34 years of service in back of me - that would strike a woman because she was asked to pass the silver.

Mr. R: You also told Mr. Schwartz you were not taking part in it.

Miss D: I let her sister take care of it, I did not want to get involved, she might have done most anything.

Mr. R: Then you think there might have been a fight?

Miss D: I am afraid there would have been.

Mr. R: I do not understand it. Here is a girl who worked in Mr. Schwartz's house for about a year, with never a difficulty. Then she goes to the Colony - what she did in 1945 was thrown up to her. Yet human problems and human behavior are your business down here, but you resent them.

Miss D: No, no, Mr. Russell, please.

Mr. R: If the girl is not lily-white, she is scarlet -

Miss D: Could anything be lily-white from an institution? Gum chewing and smoking - like Rose Emery. Why don't you tell your girls before they come down here, Dolan does not like chewing gum?

Mr. R: But that is the matron's job, why should we? Is it a sin to chew gum?

Miss D: I don't want the girls to chew gum, the people they work for don't

them to chew gum on the job, they don't want a wad of gum besides their plates, gum in their hair.

Mr. R: But that is a teaching proposition, we have gum chewing at the school, our girls don't get chewing gum in their hair, why should we tell our girls before they leave Brandon that Miss Dolan does not like chewing gum? Isn't your job to teach them?

Miss D: There was Carried Woodard. she was a problem, she was a little bugger. They were building up in Brandon, so Carrie left a note here, dropped a note there; then one day a taxi brings this man down to the door at night and he asks for Carrie Woodard. I had him come to the porch. He was drinking. He said, he wanted to leave Carrie a little money. He wanted to help her out until she could earn some of her own. The next day I called at the school, gave Dr. Kelly the name. He said, no such man working on the construction job. Send her back to the school. I told him, let me try her thirty days. If this builds up to something more serious, we can still remove her. Carried told me she had seen him on the back porch at C. And when you took her to Dundon's, Mr. Mulcahy, Carried was crying very hard, and you said to her - "dry your eyes and stop crying, these people will think Miss Dolan pounded you". I have taken a beating from Brandon. Mr. Bittle came into my house in 1950 and told me that I would have to take the pledge. Al Holmes came to see me December 27, 1954, in the morning, and told me that you discussed me with him. "You may be sure, Miss Dolan, that I told Mr. Russell what I thought of you and Colony House".

Mr. R: Why should I have discussed you with Mr. Holmes?

Miss D: It was about the use of the bus, to take the girls out. I said to Mr. Holmes - "take the girls out in the month of January? Where would

you go with them? Why don't we wait until the spring and summer months?" And Mr. Holmes told me also, "Miss Dolan, if I believed all that was said about you, the slop on the road would be better than you are." And there was Mr. Dale, Mr. Dickens was a witness: I asked M Mr. Dale, "how much longer are you people to allow this kind of business to build up at the State School?"

Mr. R: Did you get any satisfaction out of Mr. Dale?

Miss D: The man went out licked. The man could not understand.

Every door in this house, straight through, is wide open day and night, no door is ever closed -

Mr. R: And what does that signify?

Miss D: It signifies that at any hour of the day a girl can reach me, I am accessible at all times, I know pretty nearly everything that goes on under my roof. If my character stands in question, I am going to defend it.

Mr. R: Your character is not in question, I am talking purely about the matter of handling and training the girls. I have no question at all about your character.

Miss D: I am glad to hear it.

Mr. R: The ruling I would like to lay down is that every girl must be accepted that every girl that comes here must be accepted without reservation, 100%; that there be no discrimination.

Additional comments were made on the way out, but stenographic notes were impossible. There was a story about a girl being brought home from day placement by the man of the house, with certain propositions claimed by the girl. Miss Dolan decried these as fabrications on the part of the girl, etc.

TRANSCRIPT OF NOTES ON CONFERENCE WITH MISS DOLAN
held at Rutland Colony House on Friday afternoon, June 24, 1955.

Present: Mr. Russell, Miss Dolan - Louise Spiess, stenographer.

1. Mr. Russell explained to Miss Dolan that he had come to discuss with her her personnel rating sheet, as explained in his letter to her. Miss Dolan confirmed receipt of that letter. Mr. Russell also handed Miss Dolan a form to be completed by her for Miss Sharkey. Miss Dolan explained that Miss Sharkey was at the hospital, being treated for bursitis in the shoulder, acquired, Miss Dolan claimed, because of the rough handling Miss Sharkey had received from Lianie Hendee. Mr. Russell asked whether the school had been notified of this accident and hospitalization, but received no reply.
2. Miss Dolan asked whether this was something new, referring to the rating sheet, and Mr. Russell explained that it was new only in form, that, according to Personnel Rules and Regulations, a rating sheet had to be filled out every six months for every employee, that the school had been very lax on the matter to date, that the last rating sheet in her record had been done by Mr. Needham in 1953. Ratings would be given every six months from now on. Miss Dolan agreed that such a practice was a good idea, good for the employee and good for the employer.
3. Mr. Russell handed Miss Dolan her rating sheet and explained that the rules and regulations required that the rating must be discussed with the employee, that the employee's signature was required, not to signify agreement with the rating but merely to confirm that the rating had been discussed.
4. Each point of the rating was then discussed, Miss Dolan disagreeing on the majority of them, giving examples of her management of the Colony to disprove some of the rating. Some direct quotes were as follows: "Don't forget for one moment, I know what's being said, I know what's being done to me, and I know what's going on it's a strange thing for the State of Vermont and its officials to allow such a thing to go on against its faithful employees, I for one am not going to accept it. I have been a faithful old slave and the colony would not be what it is if it were not for me. I shall throw that into the lap of the public, if necessary. Rutland Colony is not what it was when I took over, Mr. Dale knows what I took over in the old colony."
5. Asked why she called girls names, such as psychos, perverts, harlots, Miss Dolan stated: "If I say harlots, I know whereof I speak, there were harlots. And I am proud to say, and you may inquire from Rutland residents, what there was there and what it is today. I was only hired to complete the lease, but I cleaned it out, I got rid of them." She answered Mr. Russell's comment that the colony is not an institution for mentally and emotionally normal girls, "I made the colony, I am the colony". "How Montpelier can let this go on, I don't know." "I sat here with you people on Holy Thursday, when I should have been in church with my God, I was locked with three people in this room." "Locked?", Mr. Russell asked, "the door was open". Miss Dolan continued: "Mr. Needham, spent much time here. He was here on January 25th, just before he died. He asked questions and he got the answers." "At the time of Dr. Kelly, I told Mr. Dale, "You don't need a psychiatrist for Brandon, Francis Needham

has good common sense, he knows the situation in Brandon". "I have worked with Mr. Dale, I have worked with Burt Sisco, I have no trouble with them." When Mr. Russell referred to Dr. Kelly, Mr. Greenleaf, Mr. Needham, Miss Dolan referred him to her record under Dr. Allen.

6. Reading further in the rating sheet, she said, "I think you would like to fire me". "Would you like to be fired, Miss Dolan?" "No, Dolan is going to stay here, I am going to stand on my own two feet, and if I have to go in another direction, I am standing on my record, with the material that was sent to me I go on record as doing a mighty fine job under the most trying circumstances that any person could work under. Yet I am nothing. I am not the only one who has asked that question at the State School. This is just a push-around. All the things you tell me because I correct a girl and she flies back with lies. Do you think she is condemned 100% here. Any girl who has gone back from here knows why she went back, because of the problem she created." Mr. Russell: "You are here to handle the problem, Miss Dolan". Miss Dolan: "Then I am the agitator?" Mr. Russell: "You are the person in charge of the situation."

7. Miss Dolan stated that she had had only three runaways from 1930 to now, Elsie Shewell, Blanche Shewell, Pearl White. She described Beatrice Godbout's record at the Colony, which was allowed to go unchecked because Mr. Needham would not send for "his dame" when asked to do so.

8. Miss Dolan took violent issue with being "usually behind schedule", and interpreted it as referring to her bookkeeping system, that she had 24 girls to cover, that she would go to Montpelier and tell Mr. Anderson that in 20 years of collecting she had never lost a dollar, that "Dolan has sent tons of money to Montpelier", that she has to be scrub woman, teacher, trainer, bookkeeper, cook.

9. She called attention to her "fan mail" from the girls, from the parolees or discharges, that they call her up night and day.

10. She referred to the social workers, Mr. Maloney, Mr. Mulcahy, as "those men chasing around the country after girls". She stated that some of the girls would never make good, referring to discharges. Cautioned that it was not fair to condemn any human being, she countered, "you are condemning me".

11. Miss Dolan referred to Shirley Mailhote, who shared an apartment with Irene Hendee and who was "working furiously and fast". She referred to Miss Curtis' statements in public that the colony was nothing in comparison to what "we" have in mind, in fact, "it is just nothing". "The trouble with Miss Curtis is she has gotten hold of the wrong earphones, coming into Rutland and telling people what Dolan amounts to". "If a girl that was trained and brought along at the colony can get 200 names in one afternoon, I think Dolan ought to be able to dig up some 1200 or more." "I will ask Mr. Dale to tell me why I was allowed to sit here 26 years, only to be faced with this."

12. Mr. Russell then gave Miss Dolan some of the forms used at BSS, a few AWP forms, and explained their use; accident reports, which were designed for the school and could be filled out by Miss Dolan only in part, but details of the accident must be given; quarterly dormitory reports, which Miss Dolan glanced