

June 19th 1945

Dear Ones,

We have a good movie tonight - Experiment Perilous - but I just didn't feel like going to it so I came down and wrote to Herb Schreiber and to Neil. It was a full day. The mail brought a letter from Dot Fried and your note from Boston on the morning of the 10th, Mother.

If what Stone reports in PM about the personnel involved in the peace policy enforcement in Germany is correct, it certainly is a cause for alarm. He makes it clear that Truman's directives were hard and unyielding to the "soft" peace proponents but that through the location of key industrialists in the control sections the directives are being circumvented. If we borrow administrators from big business we borrow them as administrators not as policy makers; their private desires to aid German industry, to build against Russia, or what have you must be overlooked - the policy followed must be consistent with the policy expressed by the President and accepted as necessary by the people. For that reason the PM plea that policy directives should be made public as should the actual work being done in Germany is entirely justified. There is enough evidence on the surface of things to warn us that complacency is no attitude for the present. We cannot lose the peace or any phase of it! The overall picture as a result of the first meetings of the Control Commission is more promising.

I am glad that the Social Work Conference went off all right; it sounded like a pretty major program and I'll bet that it took a lot of thoughtful preparation and planning. It is a project such as that that makes me hope that Portland is showing the necessary spark of progress so that the city can change and grow progressively better. I enjoyed the story of the Yale man and the Harvard man, "other - I see from the fact that you ex'd out a whole line that you had a little of your "English" difficulty with remembering the proper punch line! You mentioned Mr Wiggin; Miss Pease wrote to me that Miss Hueston is now head of the English Department - did Miss Tilton Resign, HB? Do you know who your teachers will be next year, Foots? - or is that one of the subjects which you don't think about during the summer months?

The Churchill speech on the Syrian crises was all very well but hardly convincing as to Britain's true interest in the Levantine politics. De Gaulle is dealing with the clever- of political allies and he has made the error of playing right into "righteous" Britain's hand. I still feel that the basic issues are being overlooked in most of the newspaper coverage I have seen. Thanks for keeping me posted on Uncle Louis' progress or lack of it; he could hardly have expected a different answer. Good for you in getting your numerals - HB; as I recall the closest I ever came to such an honor was a letter for the Debating club which was strictly a joke. For some reason the Debating Club rated as an athletic organization (maybe because I waved my hands) and we were member of the D Club as a result of it; that was fun. If I recall correctly, there is no more debating club at Deering - too bad. Well, that is enough for tonight; I will pick up this some time tomorrow. I am pretty well through the most recent batch of letters and clippings.

Wednesday noon - all is well, I have been up to my neck in reports all morning and I have been doing all my own typing. On the question of military training: I think that Hoover's warning against regimentation in education is important but I do not think that it is a danger here - I do not think that the ex-President meant his remarks as argument against the entire idea of peacetime draft; he was just warning against a course which it should not take and everyone agrees with him. I wish that the VFW had not presented its alternative plan - it is weak and meaningless; the VFW should have stuck with the Legion in support of the full year continuous training plan. Grew hit most of the points for military training as related to our world position pretty well. As for what the opponents have been saying: it seems to me that on the face of it the "delay" argument is weak - why delay a measure when its validity can be decided now, when all the material involved is available now as well as later? The post-war international situation is already in almost complete outline - we don't have to wait to know what it will be. The men in the service can express their ideas now as well as any other time;

did we postpone the elections last November? Aren't the soldiers represented by our federal representatives the way the rest of the citizenry are? There is a difference between a healthy and intelligent youth of a nation, and a youth that is basically acquainted with military specialties; we need them both. Why do the opponents insist on taking the approach that military conscription will be all there is to our post-war programs? Education, physical fitness, social life will continue to be stressed as always; schools and community and church activities will continue to be emphasized in the growth of the younger generation; our philosophy will still be one of peace and our efforts shall be to encourage peaceful and just settlements. This is just an added measure. (One reason why I favor the continuance of the draft is so that no soldier will be stuck in the Army for the duration plus six plus and plus!!)

The new role of Wallace certainly has the attention of the Press - his appointment of Bush and Kettering and Kenyon to the Patent investigating committee certainly seems to be inconsistent with the old Wallace line and even with the directive which Truman gave him in connection with the Committee; we shall see. Certainly Wallace is losing some of the Crusader sheen which cloaked him in 1944; whether it is part of a long range political move or just a mild reaction is hard to say. The extremeness of the change is the striking thing assuming the nature of his appointments to be truly reflective of Wallace's state of mind. It was good to read that the Court of Appeals had reversed the previous decision on the Esquire case; will that mean a refund to Esquire for the funds they spent on the additional postage?

That sort of covers things for this noon; I am going to have to reread the clippings on the first announcements of the Control Commission. OK for now -

All my love,

Sumner

Regards to Doris.