

10 June 1945

Dear Ones,

It is now about quarter of seven - the officer of the guard no longer has to attend the movie but I do have to inspect the guard starting at eight and so I will skip the Disney production ce soir. One of the clippings in the last batch of letters touched on the inter-state divorce law problem and the writer noted that despite the current difficulties a national divorce law would oppose an amendment in the fear that it would lower the barriers to divorce. How much like the arguments used against birth control!!

From all the clippings I have read it would seem that the results of the British election are pretty much up in the air. The interesting feature in contrast to the November vote in the States is that while the arguments of experience and of world stature are heavily for the incumbents, and although everyone recognizes that the military course of the war will in no way be affected if the present government is not returned, in the British case the party with the left-wing elements is out and the right-wing is in - in other words for the progressive Britons the problem of making a decision is much more difficult.

The news of the encouraging agreement on a revised veto system is good; it may be the Hopkins visit that is paying off - in any event Truman apparently has handled it well and Pearson was wrong in saying that everything else was a front and that the Soviets would insist only in their interpretation of the veto clause. Leo Cross's letter to the Times hit the nail pretty well on the head when he said that "the inexorable demand of peace and security will prevail over unworkable" procedures. On the whole it would seem that Truman is taking hold well; I would not be surprised to see the Senate override the committee report and restore the 50% reduction of tariff powers to the President in the Reciprocal Trade extension. His cabinet shows a balance - geographically if not otherwise - and his use of personnel like Hopkins, Davies, and Rosenman shows that he is in control of the problems he faces. He is a good politician, but he apparently is firm and honest. (Of course, Daddy, why you insist on constant references to the role of FDR escapes me.) I am glad to see, though, Daddy, that you recognize the current voting and issues as critical tests for the Republican Party; if the Trade Agreements extension is any indication, the GOP does not stack up too well.

I got a kick out of Quentin Reynolds review of "These Are the Russians" - I hope that the book is a counter-irritant for the generally unsympathetic treatment that Russia receives from the American press. The attitudes of Heart and McCormick are almost humorous they are so extremely bigotted. It is apparent that a lot of visitors to Russia are similar to the pre-war visitors to Italy who came back remembering only that the trains ran on time - except that in Russia the rails are still bombed out and the trains have a few hold-ups so that they do not run on time.

I should write to Fred League before I knock off for the night - I think I told you that he landed in about the third wave of one of the Luzon beachheads and he a little tough sledding for quite a while - I haven't heard from him except for one brief note and Al Laue's letter to me was a reminder. Well, today is the first anniversary in the New Hebrides - it was June 11, a Sunday, last year when I got off the boat and reported in; we had arrived the evening before and waited overnight for a berth at a pier. In time, though I hope we will forget that significance of the day and remember it only as Judy and Hank's wedding day. I imagine that you have spent the weekend in Boston and that every household is pretty much in a happy uproar. They certainly are two lucky kids - in years when everyone else has seen his own private world go topsy-turvy they have led a perfectly normal and uninterrupted existence. Chances are that with any kind of a break Hank will not see overseas service until the end of the war.

I enjoyed the Bulletin of the Hebrew University. OK for tonight -

All my love,

Sumner

Regards to Doris