

15 June 1945

Dear Ones,

It is Friday noon and today is pretty comfortable - there is a breeze to break the muggy spell of the past week. I should call Hal Stein and find out if he is coming over this evening; what with most of the troops gone now, attendance at services is pretty slim. I started "Suds in Your Eye" last night and it is certainly easily and humorously written; I saw on one of the TIMES book pages that Mrs Laswell has a new volume out and is calling it "High Time." (The food Aunt Etta sent is delicious - I will drop her a V-mail; I would send you some requests but the less nasher I have the better for my waistline. We still eat well here - in fact Art got hold of a couple of waffle irons for the Mess and so in addition to a fresh egg we get a waffle now for breakfast; this noon, of course, we have fish and I may bypass its dubious food value.

Thanks for sending the Lyon's column along; I imagine that one of these days his anecdotes will be collected into a book edition. I see in the Dahl column that girls' wearing of mens shirts with the tails flying is still a topic of conversation in Massachusetts. You can always count on something like that - in the Cerf book there is the story of the New England town where one man who appears prosperous and respectable is socially ostracized, no one will speak to him or of him; the storyteller builds it up at great length and at last it is revealed that his New England townsmen won't speak to him because "he dipped into his capital." There are so many little characteristics, most of them on the blue-law, prudish, and conservative side, that in this day and age a lot of newsworthy events arise - specifically the banning of books in Boston. Needless to say it loses its humorous element when the puritanism or what have you stands in the way of legitimate and justifiable change and progress.

It seems to me that the Krug report on reconversion was very sensible - the conversion back to peacetime production requirements will have as effective an economic stimulus as did the wartime requirements, but there will be few of the controlling elements that characterized the war economy in terms of supply and demand and competition. The outline which Krug presents seems to be fair and does seem to avert the dangers of a stampede or of unfairness through blanket decisions. In any case we have a long job ahead of us and the the greater the care and intelligence with which it is handled, the better will be our basis for total return to peacetime production. I should imagine that on the whole industry and the country will respond favorably to his proposals of policy.

"auterback's book seems to be getting a warm reception from the American press and of course each reviewer's angle is a comparison with White's volume. The thing that encourages me is the strong public interest in these matters - the fact that these issues are right up there in front and are not being lost in a hazy withdrawal to "normalcy." It is the sum total of just these things that is the best promise that we will not fall asleep at the switch again. I see that the Boston Herald responded to the French action in Syria and Lebanon as "high-handed. It cannot be argued - at least with the facts that I have seen - that De Gaulle did not act with speed and force and perhaps a little too much vigor to assure the garrisoning of his troops in the Levant while on their way to the Asiatic theatres; it is still not clear in my mind what specifically started the shooting - but I do not think that that is what the issue should be judged upon.

The first reaction I had to the Truman proposal of a blanket \$25 a week measure to cover the post-war depression lapses was that the idea was a good one but that it seemed a little too simple. I am very poorly informed on the mechanics of social security and workers' unemployment insurance, but from what I have read I take it that there are not only the national provisions but also state laws covering the same territory. In any case Truman is on the right track in forcing the issue to the fore for the solution of that phase of the problem of our post-war economy.

Regards to Doris

OK for now - all my love, *Dumpling*