

July 12th 1945

Dear Ones,

Last night I wrote to Brooklyn, Herb Schreiber, Willie, and Abe Benioff; I fell asleep reading Cronin's "The Green Years." During the day yesterday I read "The Postman Always Rings Twice" - Cain is just about tops in my book of the down to earth school. This morning Thorpe really blew up at me - no real reason, just a terrific blast of steam; within ten minutes he was smiling again but I just refuse to ride up and down with him. I think I am at the point where I really do not let him phase me.

As for your letter on China, Daddy: to consider the current Chinese situation merely in terms of the defeat of Japan is to miss a great deal of a very serious question. You cannot discuss the defeat of Japan, the problem of American supply and manpower, ~~and~~ the Russian role, without making a decision on the internal problem of the Chinese Republic. Certainly Chiang Kai Shék is encouraged by the course of events, certainly he speaks in terms of China's winning the war in China with her men and our supplies. But it is not to belittle the Chinese staying power and their great fight of the past nine years, to insist that in defeating Japan we use all of China's resources and to insist that the end of the war will come with the major splits in China healed through wartime unity rather than remaining open sores to be cured only at the cost of further strife. I wrote at some length in this vein before; I hope that out of the Moscow talks and the Big Three Meeting will come some outline for the complicated factors of the war against the Japs. No matter what the answer may be, we must assume that the US is contemplating the attack on the home islands as well as landings on the China coast to link up with Chinese forces. There is not an ounce of economy in letting the war drag on and on - it must be ended with complete success as quickly and effectively as possible and America is too far into the game to hope to be no more than a supply base. War is no half way measure.

I am glad that you agree that Taft has lost all of his stature and has fallen into the Wheeler, Rankin, Summers class of apparently incurables. As for your comments about the two rumors, Daddy - it is clear that Vandenberg has made a complete turn-about since 1941; but it is equally clear that there remains in Congress a union of southern Democrats and reactionary Republicans who are strong enough to block all but the most unanimous action of the rest of Congress. The only hope for the country and for the GOP is that in the elections to come the reactionaries and the isolationists will be defeated and the Party can adopt wholeheartedly a liberal and progressive policy; as long as men of the Taft stamp, men like Colonel McCorkick and Joe Pew and Kamp and Mervin Hart, remain strong in Republican circles, the Party does not deserve national confidence.

Slowly but surely I am making a dent in the huge pile of letters I had from you; 1811 bet about fifteen came within two or three days. I still wish that you would comment on some of the clippings which you send - particularly those on native fascism and the link between native anti-semitism and similar movements with the personalities on the home front. Pearson, PM, the Advocate, even the TIMES, continually hit on the same aspects - Senator Bilbo, certain American manufacturing interests, Gerald LK Smith and the group that thrives on hate. This constant exposure is healthy and important; it was this type of journalistic honesty that helped to puncture the hate-Russia mood that was planted during the more trying days at San Francisco. And it is the sum of these items that makes up an important part of the home front picture in any evaluation of our post war picture.

That sort of covers things for now - the movie schedule continues poor.

All my love



Regards to Doris.