

July 15th

Dear Ones,

Just because it was Saturday night we played poker until 1 last night; since I read a while after that I didn't get too much sleep last night. Today I am more or less marking time - probably go out to the depot later on; it has got to the point where there seems to be less than nothing to do. After I wrote to you last night I wrote V mails to Paul Marble, Aunt Anne and Uncle Joe, and Bill Snower. I am pretty well caught up on my mail - Dave Owen and De Wolfe are the only two to whom I owe letters. It is a bright sunny day today and some mail might come in although with the excellence of the deliveries of the past week we have no right to expect any.

I agree with you that there is a lot in the Ickes point of the fact that government employees are underpaid; government salaries must be high enough to attract the best men in their fields - not just those of mediocre standings. This applies at all levels, not merely the national government. Like you I was surprised that Arnall of Georgia and Mark Ethridge, long one of the most outspoken liberals of the Southern press, were opposed to the Federal FEPC. I think it reflects an attitude which I found in Nashville and which to my mind is the weakest point in the armor of the Southerners who claim the title of liberal. They will not force the issue of equality of rights and opportunity; they approach it from a passive point of view. I am still waiting for Dot Mintz's answer to my last letter in which I reproached her for that reticence on the part of the liberal south to start the ball rolling more forcefully toward its eventual goal. The note about Shamus Caplan's catering to Daddy was good.

I started this a couple of hours ago - since then I have been out to the depot; on the way back we picked up four New Zealand soldiers who had left NZ just two days ago. They were all young and we could spot them as newcomers for when we asked them where we could take them, they answered, "Santo." Apparently this island had its major airfield will be maintained as a secondary base and emergency landing field after the war. Most of the New Zealanders we have run into here are a cheerful, healthy bunch. The boys who have been to Auckland say that the islands are very much like the States.

It has become hot and muggy and I am quite uncomfortable. I am pretty near to the end of the large accumulation of letters that I had to be answered. Helen Babsy certainly is on the go - between Bobby, Ruthie, and Evelyn she will have spent a very exciting three weeks. Her cards certainly reflect her joy, and her letters her happy adolescence; it is wonderful to share with her the very normal and natural emotional experiences of growing up even though I am so far away. I hardly know Bobby Jacobs since I have never seen him out of the Aunt Etta area; he certainly was a good looking young man and I take it that he is intelligent and personable. (The only thing I have against him is the fact that Aunt Etta wrote that he was contemplating the regular Navy!!) I can well imagine HB's reaction to him and his to her. Maybe you are right about Lewittes - I am just partial to the big fish in the little pond idea. He undoubtedly has what he wants to a much greater degree in Boston.

I'll come back to this after lunch. It was a good meal - chicken, and I managed to get some white meat. Everybody seems rather tired and uncomfortable today - it would be a wonderful afternoon for the beach. I guess that we can look for an early hot season this year if the past week has been any indication - winter here is like summer in Northern Maine, if you stay in bed for a couple of days you're liable to miss it. Everyone who has been on the Canal and other islands closer to the Equator admits that they do not get as uncomfortable as the humidity on Santo can become. Well, back to work -

All my love -

Regards to Doris

