

July 17th 1945

Dear Ones,

We had a good mail delivery yesterday - about six letters from home and notes from Louis Epstein and Neil Clark; Neil is someplace in the Western Pacific at APO 86 - what specific spot I do not know. I also got a publicity-promotion sheet from a magazine called "Commentary" - where my name gets on all these lists I do not know. I do not feel that what the American Jewish Community needs more reading matter particularly, but it is one way to bring some semblance of order into the Jewish group at this time. If I have time I may write a few of my ideas on the topic in answer.

I hope that the petition from the state Governor will help to bolster Truman in any discussion of the Near East and Palestine; I enjoyed your comment about Hildreth's reaction to the different petitions which were presented to him and I can understand the cause of his confusion. Just another example of the harm that is done by the multitude of organizations functioning separately and without coordination; can you clarify for me what the position of the Maine Jewish Community is on matters such as this? Does it merely coordinate charity and local projects or does it have a policy making power to represent the Jewish Community of Maine and the many organizations that form it? I am a little confused about the Newspaper strike in New York. The PM articles so far have covered only the mechanics involved in a Union vote and have noted no issues at stake. Perhaps some of the clippings I have yet to come to will deal with the issues. I enjoy the way PM reviews the columns and the comics of the other papers so that readers will not lose continuities!

I agree with you that the appointment of Cohen is an encouraging sign as to the make-up which Byrnes will seek in his cabinet; it is still too early to make any general evaluation and it takes time for important personnel changes to become possible. By the time this reaches you the announcement may be out as to the results of the British election; the manner of counting the soldier vote has certainly led to a strange situation of suspense and waiting. For some reason we have seen nothing about Vinson's becoming Morgenthau's successor; it sounds logical though. Pegler certainly tore into LaGuardia in his column - apparently he would get along well with the profane Hopkins in the latter's new job with the Garment Trade. (Since I have come into the Army I have taken a different attitude toward swearing and profanity - I can recall my dismay when Daddy used to swear during phone conversations; my one bad experience was an outburst I indulged in once in Boston when I was driving Uncle Harry's car and somebody cut in front of me without warning and with a near accident - I forgot that Judy and Aunt Sarah were in the back seat for the moment! I guess that it is no more than habit.) But to get back to Hopkins and LaGuardia - I think that the former will probably be in his right element in his new position; as for Butch and his bad habits - his political record as a mayor of New York is certainly an outstanding one, and that is the criterion to be used

I am now up in the office - we have a bridge game arranged for 7. Today was a long one and I did not leave the office until close to six. (The machine type of the machine up here seems to be the same as the one in the depot.) Torpe is pretty stable these days and things are fairly smooth. The morale of the men remains mediocre at best - a change of scenery would be the best answer; moving around must be one way to avoid the stagnation of the Army. Last night I read Perelman's "Dream Department" - a lot of people cannot stand or understand his whimsy and sophisticated nonsense but I get a kick out of his little stories and travesties. I am still in the middle of my reading jag - I devoured Willa Cather's superb "Death Comes for the Archbishop" on Sunday evening. Are you still Heritage and Readers' Club minded, Daddy? - or is that a silly question?!!

OK for tonight - all my love,

*Sammy*

Regards to Doris