

July 19 1945

Dear Ones,

Last night we say The Lady Vanishes - an old picture but still very good; you can't beat the Hitchcock touch. And the British sense of humor is always sure fire for many American laughs. I went to bed and finished Green Mansions; I was asleep by 11; for some reason I slept very poorly and I feel played out and tired today.

Last night I received more mail from home, the overseas edition of the Lamppoon which I think Uncle Don sent to me, and a short note from Abe Benioff. In connection with one of my comments of the other day, one of the JPS releases commented that Dulles interpreted the Charter as not promising United Actions against internal persecution by national governments. (It was the same clipping that quoted Carroll Binder's statement about the percentage of Jewish airmen in his squadron.) I am still hopeful - the declaration against Franco was one indication - that the world organization will grow in stature and to a recognition of its full role to the point where the crimes of hate and prejudice and persecution by a government against a segment of its population, that are premeditated and planned, are combatted as crimes against all men and as a sign of weakness and of danger to the rest of the world, a sign of decay and evil to be eliminated. As I said, Jackson's decision on the question of Nazi crimes against German Jews may well be an important precedent.

From the current discussions of lendlease and FEA policy toward Russia, it is clear that either the US does not know Russia's intentions toward Japan or does not intend to divulge the fact that we do know; as one commentator for the TIMES said, the most logical conclusion is that neither we nor the Russians know as yet. I am still strong for Russian entry onto the scene. The sooner the war with Japan is over the sooner we can concentrate on the peace of all the world; similarly all of Russia's interests in the Asiatic mainland are concerned, as well as her old debts from 1904-1905. A third factor and one which was raised by one of the boys here and an angle which had not occurred to me is that under the San Francisco Charter Russia should find herself at war with Japan - although wars currently in process may be excluded from the treaty. It is another case in which only time will tell.

The TIMES report that a committee has been formed to bring Silver and Wise back together into the Zionist fold hits an encouraging note; I hope that it is successful. As for the current dispute over Rabbi Kaplan and his "atheism" I can not but agree with Stephen Wise in labeling the action of the Union of Orthodox Rabbis as unwise and harmful - it is reminiscent of the middle ages. The handling of the disagreement by the Orthodox group was archaic and completely inconsistent with any doctrine of liberalism or democracy to which we subscribe today. The affect of their action could have been foreseen and the reaction and stir which it was bound to create should have been reason enough to block the taking of the step. What the Rabbis accomplished I do not know, even though in the light of Orthodoxy everything they claim and say might be absolutely true and indisputable.

I think you are right, Mother, in your comment on Heller's statement; not only do I think that it was not well considered but also I feel that the number of American soldiers who want to return to anyplace but the US will be high if it gets above one thousand. Heller's statement seems to me to typify the extremeness of a certain segment of the Zionist group that just does not honestly evaluate the nature and seriousness of the opposition to the accomplishment of the Zionist plan. The letter that Beth Osgood wrote was typical of the feeling of the majority of Americans of Jewish faith, I think.

OK for this noontime - all my love,

*Sumner*

Regards to Doris