Dear Ones,

All is quiet on the Santo front; good mail delivery yesterday - a letter from Joe Thompson, who is now at Camp Lee and is still very, very unhappy in the Army; a three page affair from Herb Strebler, we will solve the problems of the world in our correspondence if we keep up our present pace; a long letter from Mulch, written while on route with a Chinese division to which he is apparently attached as an artillery officer. Mulch is pretty hard to keep up with - either he is having some real experiences in CBI theatre or he has a vivid imagination. There were also four letters from home; I just wrote to Joe - I have been in the office today working on reports and this noon we are having fish so I thought it would be a good meal to skip - I haven't changed on that score!! Last night I went to the orientation film and just because I was there at the theatre I sat through the feature film; we played poker until midnight and I lost my shirt - I should have stood in bed. Hal will be here tonight but I don't know if he will be free to hang around for the movie.

I am glad that you received the money order and the watch; only the books are en route now - I hope that they arrive in good shape; I hope that you will have the watch cleaned and repaired and put away in storage for me; this new one is a good time piece and it looks sturdy enough to take the beating I give it. Thanks for your report on the Boston visit, Mother. I am glad that the human grandparents are well and that things at 15 and the office are well. It didn't take long for the peculiar problems of family relationships to present themselves to Judy and Hank and all concerned. I imagine that they will solve them in their own way in time; how long can Hank count on before the Army snags him for active duty?

If the Boston Herald reaction to Vinson is any indication, he will be acclaimed as an excellent choice as Morgenthau's successor; I imagine that there will be a few sour notes because he is not on record as being an absolute New Dealer. To my mind it is a serious error to think that without the binding and powerful personality of FDR, the executive branch would retain its push and drive which were so essential in the accomplishment of the programs of the New Deal; we are on the verge of an era of greater graduality and compromise - the tendency will be to keep from backtracking and swerving away from the general pace of progress rather than to be constantly pushing ahead to advance at an accelerated pace. It may well be that this approach is the best, since the aims and principles have already been laid down in undeniable terms. (think that Byrnes, Vinson, and the other major Truman appointments fit into this pattern) This fact does not deny that criticisms which remind us of the importance of keeping our social and economic goals as constant guides are necessary and essential.

In all of this there is one point more which I think should be made - it is something which I have noted in the Lippmann columns (and which has not been in your letters, Daddy.) Lippmann in his comments on the changing complexion of our national government makes it clear over and over again that the changes are "reflection of Roosevelt." In other words, while praising Truman and the approach he has made to his tremendous problems, he can point out that those factors in no way are criticisms of FDR but are merely the changes that come about with a change in administration and in comparative terms have no bearing on a judgment of FDR.

I see that you got launched on the topic of the future Mrs SIB too, Mother. You can rest assured that I read your letters carefully and that I am well impressed by the approach and arguments which you use. And have no fear - I am going back with an open mind and with no commitments, ready to play the field for what it is worth. You are most right when you say that this is all theoretical now - the idea of my being home in normal society and in normal times is still part of my world of fancy. OK for this moontime - I'll probably spend the PM at the depot -

All my love,

Regards to Doris