

July 22nd 1945

Dear Ones,

It is now 0613 in the morning - I have just finished by second inspection of the Guard and I didn't see the point of going back to bed only to get up again in an hour for breakfast. It was a good night for guard - bright and clear; the moon was so bright that during my first inspection I did not really need the lights on my jeep. This morning I have seen the day break. Last night I wrote to Herb and Dan and to Mulch; yesterday afternoon there was a note from Betty Freedman. Today I have to be on call, so I will probably be around the office or the depot catching up all the loose ends.

The Kilgore report on European economic conditions is encouraging in that it brings to the fore not only the many problems involved in cleaning the Nazi and German elements from international finance but also the difficulties we are having in handling the problem, the lack of coordination and agreement between our Army and Governmental agencies. Kilgore doesn't mince words and I imagine that he is an investigator after Truman's own heart. Work like his is essential in the complete breakdown and elimination of the German economic and financial structure; exposure and explanation are effective weapons against cartels and the international links of the Nazi economy. I am glad that the other nations have accepted the Jackson idea of mass trials; I imagine they should just about be ready to start. One small note in PM was that the British had taken more Syrian port towns after a squabble between the French and the Syrians; the British pattern seems to be undeniably clear.

It is a little difficult to comment on the current Russo-Turk dispute in view of the fact that everything is still in the unconfirmed stage. Certainly it is clear that Russia has asked again for the Dardanelles guarantee and I think that she deserves it and will get it. As for rectifications of the Armenian border regions and of the Bulgarian outlet to the Aegean, those would appear to me to be logical questions for the consideration of the United Nations - the current Russian-Turk conversations may be preparatory to presenting the questions involved to the World Assembly and Council. In any event, unilateral or bilateral action does not seem to be the proper tack here; Russia could do a lot to bolster the World organization by avoiding either course and turning to the world for decision if the need arises.

The one problem raised by the Vinson appointment seems to be the question of replacing him as War Mobilizer; the answer it would seem to me is that this would be a good time to start a consolidation of war agencies, to correlate the work of the Treasury, The departments of Labor, Interior, and Commerce, with the many wartime agencies. Byrnes should do that for the State Department, bring the FEA, the OSS, and, together with the War Department, the Army G-5 under coordinated direction. This will be the first test of the efficiency of the new Truman administration; Truman's record would indicate that we can expect some such action.

I still am not sure of what the New York paper deliverers are complaining in their strike and it is a little hard to judge whether they are right or wrong as a result. The unanimous attitude of the WLB against the Union would indicate that they are wrong in refusing to arbitrate and return to work while awaiting a decision. It is a case again where right or wrong the Union tends to do itself more harm than good in the eyes of the public. I am enclosing what I consider to be a Mallon approach that is almost ludicrous in its pessimistic approach. The poor man must be worn out from shrugging his shoulders in resignation. Yesterday I mentioned nonfraternization and the revocation of that policy; the principle is all right but the level at which it is applied - the average GI - is not practicable. The average GI is not likely to fraternize politically or with any other significance with the Germans; his life is pretty much controlled by the Army routine anyway. Severity and strictness in our attitude toward the defeated Germans must come at the tops and at the high levels.

OK for this morning - I am off for breakfast-

All my love,

*Sumner*

Regards to Doris