

July 31st 1945

Dear Ones,

Today is payday and I look forward to being solvent again. At least it changes the routine. Art's current problem is still the major matter of concern and from what I can see Art has a pretty good case; right now it is a matter of waiting for the next development. Life on Santo goes on.

The merger question of the SSB seems to be fraught with problems. To have to keep your own organization in harmony just makes it that much more difficult. I can't help but feel that the succession of events in the CSB from the very beginning shows that Margaret has a serious fault in her inability to get people to work for her under her direction - and it puts you in a tough spot, Mother, to have to make up for that failing on her part. Where is the Board of Directors? where is the policy committee? It would be a shame to have your organization fall apart because of too many strong personalities and a lack of agreement and coordination among them. Everybody is watching Bradley to see what he will do with the Veterans' Administration; I think it is entirely possible that he will make an Army organization out of the current civilian one. Certainly there is logic to that if only from the medical point of view and the link with Army hospitals and facilities. The important thing - Army or civilian - is that he work out an efficiently functioning administration; the VA will be critical in our readjustment period. It deserves the best men available and requires the closest help and supervision of the rest of the nation.

It is good to see Pearson plug away at the connection between American industry - especially Ford and the chemicals - and German industry; the more publicity it gets the better. We tend to forget things like the Standard Oil agreements that threatened to hold up our war production back in the early years of the war. There is no such thing as free enterprise or free capital investment as concerns German industry and its reconstruction. And we are entirely justified in scrutinizing carefully the activity of those firms who before the war and right up to Pearl Harbor did business as usual (even to the extent of promising post-war aid) with the Fascist industrial machines. Mallon is surprised in one of his columns that the Woodrum committee came forth with its vague support of the military training program in the face of the opposition of the labor leaders, educators, etc. I do not think that his surprise is justified; first of all the Gallop and other polls showed the nation to favor some form of military service and that is all that the Woodrum committee proposed. Secondly the nations educators were by no means unanimous in their opposition. And thirdly, it is important to note that in questions like this unions, granges, and such organizations tend to speak for the organizations per se (as organizations) rather than necessarily representing the sum total of its members' opinions.

Thanks for the clippings from the Advocate; the item on the percentage of delinquency was good and its data would come in handy were any crackpot arguments to begin. Mrs Roosevelt raised quite a stir on the question of name-changing, I see; I am inclined to agree with the Advocate commentator that there is no justification for Goldberg's changing his name to Jones.

That sort of covers things for this noon. It is hard to realize that tomorrow I will be writing August on my letters and that the year 1945 is better than half gone. I hope that the weather at home is comfortable - it has turned windy and cold here, fortunately, after our premature warm spell. It was so windy Sunday that we did not play tennis as we had planned and I have got the point that I use two balnkets at night - quite a concession for a man from Maine! OK for now -

All my love,

Regards to Doris

*Summary*