

June 21st 1945

Dear Ones,

It is 4:30 and drizzling so the volleyball game has been eliminated. There was one letter in the afternoon mail; it was dated June 12th, written after your return from Boston and it may be indication that there is more mail in the offing.

It seems to me that PM is disappointed in that no spectacular personalities were appointed to the Anti-discrimination Commission by Governor Dewey, but even their own reporter found the majority of the comments either favorable or willing to wait and see. To my mind it is impossible to predict the course that the Commission will take and the position that it will assume, but from the Times and the PM reviews it would seem that the commissioners are capable and representative. One or two whom PM quoted as "disappointed" had set standards that the Angel Gabriel would have had trouble meeting. To my mind the wait-and-see school is on the soundest ground. Actually discouraging are the reports of Congressional shenanigans in the committee work on the FEPC where Southern Democrats and Republicans are working to bloc the measure on technical voting means.

Your letter on the gettogether at Quinn's was fine; Daddy. It is good to know that you are really back into the swing of the Legion. From the very fact that Hale, Hildreth, and Brewster were there, you can get the implication of the critical political role which Legion influence can play. On the whole what you report about Brewster's conversation is encouraging. His picture of Truman supports the general impression which the country got from the work of his committee. Truman may not play politics at the expense of national interest but it is obvious that he is an acute politician. As for his picture of the European situation: I do not believe that the British people are "readying themselves to fight the Russians." It may be entirely true that the anti-Russian bias runs high in that class of English industrialists and politicians represented in the extreme by the Cliveden Set. As for American policy: I think that the words "pro-American" are dangerous because they are associated in politics with "America First" and the like - people tend to forget the entirely correct qualifying remarks which Brewster added. I think he is saying what I have said in my comments on foreign policy - we must be realistic and honest in being world mediators and in making our concern always the concern of peace, security, and justice. And currently as we sit between England and Russia we are in the perfect position for that role.

On the question of war-torn Europe, ravaged by war and now ravaged by chaotic disorganization and confusion, I am glad that Brewster recognizes that the problem of peace is as big as the problem of winning the war; I hope that our Congress recalls the things that he has seen and the evils that it breeds when the false haven of "normalcy" beckons the war weary to cease their vigilance. But what about the Left, what about Communism? It seems to me that Europe will go left - the right has nothing to offer the people, and the people will decide. It is not consistent with the goal for which we have been fighting for us to block this natural swing - if England tries to, if we try to, then continuing civil and international conflict is assured. In the current and recurring discussion of the basic relationship between communism and capitalist democracy we have the key issue of the European settlement. I note that a recent TIME has a discussion of this; I have written at many times on it but in one of my coming letters I will try to think out my position and my ideas on this issue, and to outline what to my mind is an acceptable and necessary modus vivendi.

Back to your letter, Daddy: I hope that the report on our awareness of the true nature of the Levantine crisis is promise that the US is contemplating further action once the immediate French dispute is cleared from the scene. From the way you write Brewster is a good and outspoken friend of a pro-Zionist policy. I hope Dr Kohansky works out well - he certainly has a sized job ahead of him.