

June 22nd 1945

Dear Ones,

Hal Stein is coming over for supper tonight; the mail brought five letters from home, a few papers, and the Federation magazines of Portland activity. I had better clean up what few letters I had left from the previous batch. The Lippmann point that the Reciprocal Trade legislation is much more than a question of lowering our tariffs is one that should be stressed again and again; the nature of Congressional opposition is revealing the inability of certain of our leaders to grasp the true scope and significance of the problems with which they are dealing. (I hope that a raise in pay will attract to the Congressional halls a group of men who otherwise could not devote their talents and abilities to the public service.)

You did well to write from York Street on the morning of the 10th, Mother. I am glad that everything was under control and that everyone was fairly relaxed. You know, I have never attended a wedding! I can recall very faintly the reception after Uncle Don and Aunt Esther were married, but that is all. Maybe my own will be my first.

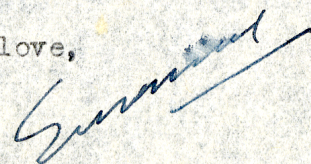
As I read over the reports of the work of the Control Commission in Berlin, I think that there is a satisfying proof in the first accomplishments that at this level we have achieved a real and functioning peacetime working basis with our allies. I am glad that we have Eisenhower as our representative - his qualifications leave little to be desired. The first statements of the Council give a clear indication of our determination to enforce a consistent and a hard peace; the only loophole is in the constant exception "except as may be directed by Allied representatives." We can not allow this to become a wedge in our effort; the enforcement of the peace must be as strict and unyielding as the winning of a battle or of a war. The policy is clear, the men at the top and the people at home have voiced their approval; the rules must hold down the line. There must be no major deviations, there need be no withdrawals. The use of Germans in technical and political positions, the building of German industry must be kept under constant and strict observation - we are trying to destroy these factors and the dislocations which not using them now will cause are nothing compared to the danger of a reconstituted German military-economic unit. There is no long range need so important as to take precedence over the agreed plan of exterminating the myriad causes and manifestations of evil which we have twice been forced to defeat.

PM certainly gave complete coverage to Rankin's questioning of Deutsch on the matter of the Veterans' Administration. It would certainly appear that the writer has been vindicated by the evidence in his own case and in the entire matter of the VA. It would seem that General Bradley did not step into any soft spot when he replaced Hines - I don't imagine that Hines regretted getting out from under the VA with all the current pressure. If the VA does need an overhaul and cleanup Bradley is probably the man to do it; certainly the organization must be efficient and functioning for the big job it will have on its hands.

It is now Saturday noon before dinner; we played poker a little late last night - the boys are accusing me of trying to pay for my watch at the poker table! but I have had a couple of bad nights and I am no more than five dollars ahead. I spent all morning counting tires - there is one thing I will get from Ordnance and that is a smattering of knowledge on things like automotive maintenance and parts - a smattering and no more. Last night we saw "Escape in the Desert" an atrocious rehash of Sherwood's "The Petrified Forest." I advise you stay away from it. There is nothing special on the weekend docket.

OK for now -

All my love,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sumner", is written over the "All my love," text.