

July 3

Dear Ones,

I did not get a chance to write yesterday; we worked from 8 in the morning until 11 in the evening and that is a pretty husky day - it is not a matter of physical exertion but rather of being on duty and away from the tent. Well, I am happy to be kept busy and as long as I am able to keep up to date on my mail. The mail yesterday brought a half dozen letters from home.

I am glad that you were able to find the pleasant side of the week when the family was in Portland, Helen Babsy; you did very well to come through all the excitement and your exams with such flying colors. It sounds as though you have a whole year of nothing but visiting the various members of the family ahead of you! I am very glad that you have such a wonderful New York trip in store and I hope that everything works out as you would want it. Good work on the Writer's Club, Toots - you certainly are an exclusive organization! Just keep writing me you warm and newsy letters, HB, full of the details and all the excitement, and you will have a writing project right there, I think.

With all the reports of the family gathering and the reaction which each of you had to the various groups and personalities, I think that I have a pretty good picture of the way things stand within the circle. When beloved parents pass on, it must affect the relationship of the children and I think that we shall see that in the months and years to come; it is entirely normal and to be expected. Juj and I for the most part have escaped the current situation and there may be several changes by the time we return. One factor, namely the strong cousinly ties, will help us avoid the separations that so often make second cousins and following generations complete strangers.

The reports that the Senate members are all but committed to ratification of the Charter is encouraging; we may have at last escaped all but the last tinges of partisan politics in the broad basis of our foreign policy. If only we can have the promise that we will be consistent, that we will recognize that San Francisco does not stand alone, that everything from economics through trade and social welfare all tie together and that among them there must be a clear understanding of the interrelationship. I hope that the Republican opposition to the Reciprocal trade treaties was the dying gasp of the Old Guard; but I don't think so - we have to always alert to keep pounding the lessons home and to allow for no major backtracking or avoidance of issues.

I see that one of the Krock column's covered the succession question and raised the same issue that an amendment is required; besides the major problem, there are apparently a number of minor irregularities and potential sore spots that make the current suggestion a little unwise as a permanent solution. At least Truman has started the ball rolling and some stop-gap action should be taken and an amendment should be started to settle the difficulty.

Your mentioning Henry Bernstein reminded me of the time Daddy and I met him on the street shortly after he had left the Army - he was wearing a pink officer's shirt; very sporty. I am warding off your requests for me to send package requests - I am eating too much as it is right now and all sorts of nasherei is available to me. You know that ordinarily packages are not forwarded - so that were I to move in the near future I would never receive what you sent to me at this late date. You don't have to remind me though that you are thinking of me and my appetite - just keep those ingredients of a chocolate cake handy for my return and I will prove that my hunger is just about as insatiable as ever!

I had not known that Barney Shur is President of the Center; it is good to know that he is doing a good job. Heaven knows that we need every ounce of community leadership which we can get. For all your saying that Aunt Etta's comments were with sweetness etc. I wonder if she still does not get some pleasure in noting the deficiencies of Aunt Ida's

children. (I'll admit that in my own way, because of my closeness to Son and Juj and Ruth, I am probably as unfair as Aunt Etta!) Ruthie may be spoiled but she certainly must be a charmer - well on all of these things it is best for me to reserve judgment until I return. I have already written to you asking for fuller details on the Bobby Morris affaire de coeur. Speaking of Coles, what has become of Henry Cole and Janet and I have forgotten the little blonde's name? I remember looking up Mr Cole some years ago when I first went to Harvard.

I enjoyed your report of Uncle Louis' reaction to Evelyn; it reminded me a little of Cerf's verdict on Woollicott that unless W. himself discovered the author or book he was plugging it was no soap; he never waxed enthusiastic over something somebody else had called to his attention. Maybe someday Uncle Louis will turn up with someone he has discovered himself.

Oscar Cox is certainly getting a big job as head of the FEA. Certainly he is close to the Secretary of State in the power which he wields in relationship with foreign governments. More power to him, he must be a very able administrator. By the time I received the Pearson comment on MacArthur and Eisenhower I had already heard MacA's denial of its implications.

OK for now - that sort of cleans up the mail through yesterdays batch.

All my love,