

July 7 1945

Dear Ones,

Mail yesterday was a letter from home and letters from Mike and Jay. Mike has decided to get married; July 20th is the date. Renie has a job at the Margaret Hague Hospital in Jersey City and I guess that they felt that are as financially well off as they will be for many a moon and that there was no point in waiting any longer. Jay Kay has landed in India and is going through the casual officers' routine which I went through at New Cal while awaiting assignment. Jay will probably end up in China - he is in AACCS (Army Airways Communication Service) and as I understand it there is always a section at every major base.

From the many articles in the TIMES it is clear that reconversion and its many headaches are becoming major considerations on the home front. In Washington there seems to be a strong "normalcy" group which is threatening to upset the continuation of necessary controls through the critical period; Chester Bowles seems to have to fight for an effective OPA and against subtle little attacks on his effectiveness at every turn. As in everything else it is disappointing ^{not} to see in Congress a full grasp of the problems involved and a readiness to deal with them without equivocation - there are always riders and sleepers in every bill designed to please special interests, but actually acting as no more than wedges into the entire structure. Labor is worried about cut-backs and lay-offs; capital faces a definite market and production problem also. Even if you do not favor an overall plan such as Wagner's you cannot deny that some sort of coordination on a national level is necessary to avoid serious upsets when war production requirements grind to a halt.

I see that Chrysler is advertising its arguments about the unionization of the foreman and shop managers. I think that that is the same question that has been raging for some time. And I still cannot see what the validity of the Chrysler argument in the face of the fact that if the foreman want to organize they have a right to - organization per se does not identify them with the regular shop employees. In one of the Times letters, Malcolm Ross of the FEPC notes the progress which minority groups have made toward economic equality during the war years. I hope that he is right and that we can hold what gains we have made; there can be no denying, though, that with the seeds of hate and prejudice and jealousy so apparent in every aspect of human activity and at every level, that there is always a long and uphill fight even though formal, organized, or admitted prejudice and hate doctrines may have been licked. The documented articles in PM covering the Soft Peace ^{are to the point} groups; especially telling is the new attitude of the "Fear the Yellow Race" Press that used to clamor for stress on the Japanese phase of the war but is now all for a negotiated peace. There are a lot of native fascistic ideas to be controlled, thrown into the light, and destroyed.

I think that the arguments used by Taft in the Bretton Woods Debate reveal once and for all that the man is 25 years too late - he would have been a perfect accomplice for Henry Cabot Lodge. His approach is negative and fearful and he is as much an isolationist as anyone ever was. It does not seem unfair to say that his thinking is so warped that his criticisms lose all of their constructive element. ... Today, now, the British election day is drawing to a close and perhaps by tonight the newscasts will carry the first results to show the overall trend of the British thinking. There is not much to be said right now. I do not feel that the British election is of such a critical nature as was ours in November for several reasons. The first is that Britain is the third ranking of the Big Three; the second is that Britain does not have to wait four years to change administrations if the situation changes - in all probability the successful conclusion of the Japanese war will see another general election. The third is that Britain is automatically committed to a role in world affairs and cannot very well withdraw behind ocean or land barriers. The fourth is that the British Empire is now a Commonwealth of Nations, and there are already Labor Governments in Australia and New Zealand. We shall see.

Your letter of the 24th was very fine, Daddy. I hope that some day I will be able to write as clearly and forcefully as you do.

OK for now - All my love,

Regards to Doris