

July 8th 1945

Dear Ones,

It is Saturday noontime - last night I went to bed early for a change. The mail yesterday brought five notes from home and letters from Uncle Lou and from Dot Fried. I answered Uncle Lou's note with a V-mail. Things a busy but quiet, getting the point where everyone is getting more or less g fed up with the state of affairs. Nothing special is in view for tomorrow - I just hope that I don't have to work all day.

I guess that Neil Clark's father's new position is a boost; I imagine that his temperament is perfectly suited to the type of work he will be doing. I see that Edith in in the Girl Scouts - I have often meant to ask Neil what she was doing. It looks as though there is a fire bug in the Ringling circus - the organization certainly has been plagued by misfortune for the past two years. Considering the statements which the Boston Herald quoted from Massachusetts legislators on the topic of the anti-discrimination bill, I was surprised that its proponents were able to muster enough strength to keep the measure from dying in committee. The Massachusetts scene is certainly a wild conglomeration of political prejudice and partisanship.

It is now Sunday morning and I am in the office; today will be probably be spent in half-hearted work. Last night we played poker and red dog (!) until 1 o'clock - I lost \$10 - it is funny to see the way we all keep playing even when we all are tired just because there is nothing to look forward to, nothing to do the next day that is any more interesting than playing cards. Early in the evening we saw "Practically your" and either the picture is terrific or I was just in a very-easy-to-please mood. I roared throughout the show with no inhibitions - and you know what that means. I am still chuckling over MacMurray's crack to his dog who insists on going with him when he heads out for a date. "I don't think that she's got a friend."

I got three letters from home yesterday and notes from Ruthie, Louis, and Judge DeWolfe. I don't know what to make of the Judge's letter and I think I will send it to you. Thinking in terms of one of your comments on his current attitude, I just wondered at his formality - no "Dear Sumner" - he misspelled Ordnance, too! Ruthie may be spoiled in the eyes of the rest of the family but all my conclusions from her letters have to be favorable. As usual, Louis Epstein did not have much to say - he too sent me the O'Hara column by Carens.

Last night the news broadcast reported that the London Poles were still adamant in the face of the British, Russian, US recognition of the newly reorganized provisional government. I think that that attitude is the height of folly - the Londoners are asking the quarter of a million Poles now serving with the British armed forces to hold allegiance to nothing at all; it remains to be seen how great their indoctrination of their forces is and how many accept the British-Allied offer of a status with the new provisional government. The Londoners may well find themselves completely out in the cold - everything at present points to the fact that a true Polish solution will be evolved on a democratic basis. The next case may be Leopold of Belgium; however in this case there is a functioning democracy and a very vocal populace. Mrs McCormick points out that the objection of the Belgian Cabinet is to Leopold himself, that he is too much the king, but she would indicate that he will fight but in the long run will abide by the decision of the Cabinet and the balance of the popular mind.

I think that Jackson is on the right track in his current handling of the war crimes problem. First of all he has won a favorable press and that is important. The idea of a blanket indictment and trial sounds effective and should circumvent a lot of the basic legal difficulties involved. His approach seems direct and essential if the job is to be done - as it must be done - quickly and effectively. If he can swing the Russians in with his plan completely, the trials should really start to roll. It seems to me that



the touchy attitude toward handling the question of punishment for crimes against nationals - namely the German persecution of the Jews - is unjustified. This would be an excellent time to make it clear precedent that fascistic persecution of minority groups may ~~not~~ be in violation of national laws but that it is in violation of international standards and is punishable. I certainly would like to see Jackson make a forthright statement to that effect - it seems to me that British opposition to such a declaration could not hold weight in the face of world opinion - we are talking about crimes against humanity, gross crimes, not crimes against merely the nationals of one country.

Just had a two hour interruption - Thorpe and I went out to the depot to take care of some odds and ends. Heard from Juj - two letters at once, again. I don't know how Morgenthau's retirement will be taken; I am not enough of an expert on economics or national finances to even hazard a guess as to whether he will be known as a good or a poor Secretary. Gradually Truman is working the cabinet into his mold; one thing is certain - Morgenthau was for a stern peace for the Germans and his weight and influence in that regard was welcome. The Alport arguments for the anti-bias bill in Massachusetts were some of the best which I have read for a long time on the psychology of prejudice and combatting it. The Carens column was pretty good - one way to get into print - he didn't mention though that Harvard was the school! It would have spoiled his dirty dig at O'Hara's school esprit!

Waterman is certainly going up the ladder fast - wartime is the the hay-making period for the West Pointers. He is a pretty good looking guy. But, brother, you could make me a six-star general and I wouldn't touch the regular army even then! Thank you for your complete letter of the 26th - it is amazing how much political activity there is in our quiescent little state and between you and me and the lamppost there is nothing I would rather do when I get back than get into the middle of it. Time will tell on that. Between the political and the social gossip and the chit-chat, you really wrote a long letter, Mother. I was sorry to hear about Miss Tilton - Miss Pease had mentioned Fanny Hueston's taking over the English department but not what had happened to Miss Tilton.

Your grades are wonderful, HB, and there is no reason to let them bother you: do you realize that when I graduated highschool my average was only 91 - and I was third in my class - and of course 91 would be no more than a B under the present marking system. I know by this time you have shaken off your first reaction to receiving the report card - how well I recall how we used to sweat out our college grades. The practice was to put a post card in our blue books and then wait for them to arrive; the waiting was worse than the grades could ever have been!

OK for now -

All my love,

