

August 30th 1945

Dear Ones,

Last night we saw Weekend at the Waldorf - just a little better than mediocre, considering the cast. I finished up Freedom Road and went to sleep. I have been fighting off that feeling of depression all week long - the mail yesterday helped to some extent, but I can feel it coming over me again; good old Espiritu Santo. I'll have to start checking around and see what services will be held for the high holidays - I have been conspicuous by my failure to keep up my attendance at services, but my feeling of obligation and of my training makes it impossible for me to even consider not observing the high holidays. I have a pretty busy week ahead. All of the men received these "V-J letters" in which the home folk wax enthusiastic about the possibilities of a quick return and that stuff - the reaction of most was to laugh at civilian naivete as concerns the way the Army works.

In going through your letters and commenting on the clippings I will probably be repetitious as hell - after all the primary problems of the peace at home and abroad are pretty well outlined by now, and the many questions revolve around similar arguments. One of the Pearson columns on the Balkan question indicated that Truman had taken the right line at Potsdam in demanding that all occupation-police forces be removed from the Balkans - in other words, demanding the removal of British forces from Greece and the balancing Russian forces from the Northern Balkans. The subsequent Bulgarian moves might indicate that although the Truman demands were not wholly met, they have provided the proper basis for action and will eventually bear fruit. It seems increasingly clear that while we must be sure that we maintain our progress in international relationships and politics, the issues of social and economic adjustment have become the foremost questions facing individual nations and the world organization. The political mechanics have been ironed out.

It seems as though the 1946 elections are beginning to shape up already - to my mind the Republican primaries will perhaps be the key voting of the New Congress; if the McCormick forces in the Mid West and their counterparts in other parts of the country are not effectively beaten, I would predict that the Republicans will not come any closer to being the majority party than they are now. In going through the letters, I noted a lot of clippings about Palestine - I am still waiting for the first official British statement; it is clear that the British Colonial office is somewhat like our state department with its officials and policies that continue despite the change in political administrations. However certainly the most hostile colonial office can not run counter to an announced policy that will receive world wide attention. The Labor party platform was so explicit that it would seem that the Arab attempts are no more than flying into a stone wall - the Arab propaganda plan is reminder enough of the importance of Jewish unity and Zionist strength. The importance and the accomplishment of Palestine must constantly be reemphasized in the context of the displaced person problem, of the politics and economy of the Near East, of the deserved reward promised to and earned by Jews as Jews.

A while ago I asked you to summarize the Bowker Bill squabble for me, and in one of the letters I got a fine coverage of it. The issues are not the revision of the Portland political structure, the redistricting of the city, the new Council, or what have you, but the questions concerning the period from September 10th to the effective date in December. The Bill seems to have two contradictory interpretations caused by the "90 day clause" at one part and the "immediate" clause at another. My reaction is very similar to that of the Press Herald editorialist - if there is no clarification or understanding that the City government will continue during the interim period, the bill can hardly be accepted. At first it was my impression that Libby was not justified in his argument, but I can well see now the need for clarification - whether Libby is using the issue as a method of defeated something he does not like (as Mayo Payson's statement would infer) or not does not matter except as it reflects on Libby.

As for the Taft letter concerning Bilbo - I am inclined to agree with the PM interpretation.

It looks as though Byrnes is starting the State Department into his own mold - the last of Hull standbys apparently will be on the way out; although Acheson and Grew have left with Rockefeller, it seems likely that Clayton and Dunn will retain key positions. It is still too early to evaluate the shape that the State Department will take. The general overhaul will probably be to the good however; it is consistent with the Truman approach toward governmental reform - we will undoubtedly see the shaking up of the entire administrative structure as soon as the opportunity warrants it. The Pearl Harbor report would seem to be the clincher on for the anti-Army school in Congress - apparently everyone from Marshall on down is implicated to one degree or another. The war time immunity of the military is gone, no punches need be pulled now.

I am glad that Lila was able to visit. News of the Morris family still seems to predominate though the news of Lou Raybin's engagement will push Bob and Irv into the background for while in the family headlines - I wonder what Aunt Etta's reaction to Sonny's choice will be. (More about that when I get to your letter which had the full details about the affair.)

That sort of covers things for today; I am including a \$50 money order - so I won't lose it at poker during the course of the month. Things are very quiet around here these days - I am afraid that it feels a little like the lull before a storm!

Regards to Doris.

All my love,

Sunny