

August 25th

Dear Ones,

No sooner said ( in yesterday's letter ) than done - today everything has been fouled up and I am regusted. Last night we had a slight snafu and loaded the wrong thing on one of the trucks and today there has been a lot of shouting about that and other things. Nobody gives a damn until things go wrong and the possibility of having to explain why occurs to them - then the old Army game begins. If one third of the time spent in passing the buck and worrying about responsibility were spent in a sincere effort to the job for its own sake we might be a hundred times better off. If I feel indifferent and disinterested, you can well imagine how the enlisted personnel feel, especially men who are casuals or men who are thinking of nothing but home now that the war is over. Thorpe's attribute of doing everything himself comes in handy at this point since he carries the brunt of all the inanities that go on around here; it sort of forces him to stay behind the rest of us in the section. One of our trouble spots is one of the key officers, one of the group of old men; I never knew anyone to get into more shouting arguments with his subordinates and associates in my life. He has succeeded in making life and work pretty unhappy for those immediately under him; by this time, most of us just shrug him off - we listen but don't say a word. Very often he is right, but his lack of what is little more than mere civility makes everyone oppose what he says for no other reason; he just cannot work with people constructively. Human relationships are pretty much like a china closet, and the bulls we have running around can be a severe pain.

I wrote to Mike and Remie - my perpetual problem of finding something to say seems to grow more severe; there is a limit to how often I can outline my own status now that the war is over - and I don't want my letters to be like orientation discussions. Tomorrow morning I am the officer on duty - I will have to reread the letters I have to answer and dig up some idea from them so that I can eke out an answer.

I wonder who Warren will appoint to succeed Johnson - it seems unlikely in view of his attitude toward the vice-presidential nomination that Warren will give up the California governorship for the Senate at this time. The TIMES suggested that Hoover might be an admirable choice - I don't know enough about California's political figures to hazard a guess but I would like to know why the governor has the prerogative to name a replacement Senator: why aren't special elections held? I don't recall - is the current system a matter of State or National decision? Some such change might be included in the proposed Constitutional amendments to cut out the electoral college. I see that the Massachusetts legislature passed a sizable port act for the port of Boston - that should be an effective reminder to the good legislators of the state of Maine that we are missing the boat again.

One of the TIMES letters did a pretty good job in showing the errors in the Ball-Burton-Hatch labor bill; it was an effective proof of the fact that the lack of strife in the railroad industry does not justify modeling our entire picture after the railway act. I think that the last paragraph of the letter was a good summary and I will enclose it along with this note. While on the topic of labor legislation, one of these days when I can assemble a few more arguments and facts I will try to go over the issues involved in the current fight for full-employment legislation; certainly with the discussion of the new Wagner-Murray bill, the entire country is going to have to evaluate the social-economic system under which we live. And I feel that the issues will be much more clearly defined than in previous debates when the cries for private enterprise, etc., rent the air and beclouded the specific issues to be settled. Another important feature of the coming Congressional session will be to see how Truman and the Congress hit it off at this stage of the game and on the issues which are up for discussion. We shall see where the impetus of our government for the next three years will come from.

OK for this morning - I will try to finish this up at the office. Nothing special -

All my love,

Regards to Doris