

August 30th 1945

Dear Ones,

Today I wrote at some length to Joe Thompson, Jay Lazrus, and V-mails to Uncle Harold, Uncle Lou, and the Thurman grandparents; that more or less brings me up to date. Tonight we are scheduled to have a shipment and I am expecting the phone call calling me to the depot at any time now. I got a kick out of Uncle Lou's calling you at 5 in the morning - as I wrote to him, it was a good thing that he mentioned that Kansas is a dry state! I hope that the Goldfines do come through with a camp-buying contribution - pretty soon you are liable to have more camps than you know what to do with!!

One of the Pearson columns called attention to the editorial in the NY News which said that if Canada did not share her Uranium with us, we should forcibly take her deposits. Isn't that a nice idea? I sometimes wonder what sort of thinking goes on in the mind of a man who would write that. The Pearson analysis of the cabinet changes indicates that Truman has not been as smooth as he might have been; political sensibilities are mighty delicate - the Morgenthau situation apparently was the worst handled (Pearson was the first commentator I have noted to mention the Jewish angle.) The continued revelations of Army wastefulness certainly are hurting the Army's post war prospects. The point is that we need the Army and the Army needs reform. A snafu in demobilization will be the final straw for the current Army regime.

Now for Hoover's little speech - after reading the TIMES review of it, I hope that Governor Warren does not name him to the empty Senate seat. "Have you not seen with your own eyes the flood of bureaucratic violations of liberty and the moral degeneration which comes with the collectivist process?" He is referring to the New Deal apparently. He paints the picture of "communism and creeping socialism" as about to choke out liberty in Europe. And he climaxes his speech with the cry that our fighting men are fighting for "the free America they have known." First of all, I can see no reason for Mr Hoover's assuming that his ideas represent those of the average American soldier - he sounds like a Nash-Kelvinator advertisement. And secondly, I cannot agree with his definition of American freedom. Mr Hoover quite clearly does not believe in the Four Freedoms; I do. Mr Hoover does not believe that a mature and functioning political democracy cannot retain its freedom and vitality when it seeks a general economic security at the cost of unlimited production initiative or lack of initiative on the part of individuals within the society; I do. Mr Hoover foredooms the English Labor Government to democratic failure; I do not. Mr Hoover believes that any form of bureaucratic collectivism will lead to the extreme forms and to eventual serfdom; I do not. Mr Hoover says that all collectivist governments "have a common base in bureaucratic power over the liberties.. of the people;" I say that the governments of Europe have a bureaucratic power based on the liberties of the people, except in the case of Russia where the goal of liberty is being worked for - since it had never been achieved before, it could not be a point of departure. And lastly, Mr Hoover has a mind that is closed tight; I hope that I do not.

You really stepped out in ordering a car; it sounds like a good idea - I will definitely want something to run around in when I get back. I guess that Portland took V-J day without too much excitement. I am not surprised. The five point program of the Zionist Conference and the explanatory statement by Weizmann were concise and effective; the issue is clearly defined now. I sent the clipping on to Jay Kay; I talked about Zionism in my letter to him - I'll be interested in hearing his reaction: I wrote in the same manner as I did to Herb. (The call for the depot just came through, so I will have to come back to this later.) It is now noon of the 31st. Another day -- it is interesting to see the different statements on reconversion and job status. I think that the people who say that there are jobs waiting for all are just kidding themselves; in any case, it certainly seems logical to have legislation ready to step into the gap of unemployment in the situations where it might arise. We are dealing with a problem of immense proportions and I hardly know anything of the total picture in the States. OK for now - I'll probably will add another page to this tonight.



has the blot of prejudice and persecution someplace on its record. The climax comes in his saying that our bombings are causing myriad deaths in Japan, so how can we talk about guilt. When I read reasoning of that nature I almost burst a blood vessel - where is the sense of balance, of reason, of judgment in that criticism. Taking the last first, would '96 have us not bomb Japan? is it guilt to kill to avoid being killed? is it guilt to pursue an imposed project to the logical and necessary conclusion? is it guilt to recognize that there is a higher social and moral standard for which we are fighting? Secondly, the argument of prejudice and persecution in the South or in the middle ages, or even in the Dreyfus era, is hardly an issue today - prejudice and persecution are not a national policy for America; would '96 have us stop criticising the Germans for their anti-Semitism because we have outbursts of it here every now and then? Does our inconsistency which we are seeking to correct force us to condone the gross errors of others? '96 is right only when he says that every nation that does adopt a national policy of bigotry is "guilty as sin" - and any glance at history tells a sad story of the nations and rulers who practiced it, France of the Third Republic and Tsarist Russia included. And lastly, we must work on the basis that all Germans are bad until they are undeniably proved to be good - '96 knows of one or two who are good; but the world knows of 80 millions who carried the world into the greatest holocaust it has ever known. The burden of proof lies on the shoulders of each individual German - one thing is clear: German society, the German state, the German community is guilty as sin, as the young officer wrote. It is important that the men of the class of '40 determine our new world course, instead of the men of '96. (By coincidence, Fay is '96 too.)

Well, now I have that off my chest. There is not much else to write - I think I'll get into bed and read. OK for now -

All my love,

*Samuel*

Regards to Doris.