

August 15th
Late afternoon

Dear Ones,

This is a borrowed typewriter, hence the fair type; I thought that today rated a letter "writ by hand" and that explains the pages that accompany this note. So far today has been no different from any other for us.

The Dorothy Thompson article on American reaction to the British election was very good - I can imagine that many American capitalists are facing decisions of great political and social importance these days. Since we are committed to political internationalism it seems unlikely that we will revert to economic isolation; American enterprise will have serious adjustments to make as concerns its foreign trade. It sounds as though Jimmy Abrahamson is in a position for which he is well qualified. It is good to read that Jackson was able to force the issue on the war trials and that the code for the tribunal is likely to appear in the near future. There was no word, I notice, about including crimes against nationals in the code. If the Attlee government comes out firmly behind the Zionist position, the Jewish position will have the element of security so that after Palestine is accomplished our efforts can be directed to the more general fields of direct attack on anti-semitism and its many manifestations. De Gualle's inclusion in the big 5 should be a boost to him on the home front; I do not think though that DeG's caution in the constitutional process now going on will prevent the formation of a strong Leftist bloc in France; only the election in the fall can truly settle the questions involved - I wonder if the French people were to choose between the Left (and extreme Left) and the Center position of DeG, whether or not the personal role of the latter would outweigh the social strength of the former. It is pointless to try to guess, but it will be interesting to watch DeG try to keep the public temper from swinging away from his center-left. It is good to see that the full employment bill is getting full discussion; there seems to be some doubt from the phrasing of the original measure as to where government stimulus or regulation will end and control-ownership begin. It is certainly essential that those doubts be cleared up explicitly in the measure and that action be taken on it by the reconvened Congress. The issues before America are not the same issues that were before England; we need government as a gap-filler and regulator to keep the private enterprise economy from getting out of kilter - we do not need and are not ready for government ownership. However, failure to pass some sort of economic guarantee measure might well force the ownership issue. Pearson certainly wasn't far wrong in urging that Congress not adjourn in view of the real possibility of the end of the Pacific war and immediate reconversion requirements at home. I was glad that TIME gave nation-wide prominence to Bilbo's recent letters to the American public; Mississippi's representation in Congress is hardly conspicuous for its liberalism or its progressiveness. The more I read of the Potsdam results the more pleased I am - in political, economic, social, and military fields the policies of control and reparations seem to have been excellently devised. The important thing is that we have both words and action - there seems to be no reason why we shouldn't succeed in our war aims. Taft's response is typical of the small mind of the man - he has a huge wall erected before his mind, and all he can see is the big black side of it.

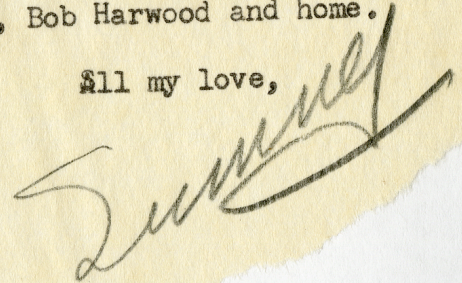
It was interesting to read the London Times report on the election; the world over seems to have adopted the wait and see attitude. Like you, Daddy, I believe that America needs a new political alignment, although I believe that you are wrong in designating the issue as socialism - I agree that in the future it may be that. But I would not call O'Mahoney and Murray and Pepper "socialists." It is much easier to define those people who would form the negative party - that might be good nomenclature "Positive Party" and "Negative Party." Let's see - we can have Taft and Wheeler heading the latter, with Colonel McCormick as chief of publicity; in the background would be Hearst and Bob Reynolds and Charles Lindbergh and the Pews and DuPonts. The NAM might supply the list of contributors to the party coffers. And the platform would be America First; the symbol, an ostrich. The white supremacy southerners would be welcome members of the new group. Caution will be the byword of the new array. Or don't you think that I am entirely fair?

Since you insist on returning to the question of the defeat of Roosevelt, I will have to answer you Daddy. Certainly a Republican victory would have affected the course of events. Can't you see Taft as the dominating figure in our foreign policy - remember that a victory for Dewey in a Republican sweep would have meant a Republican Congress - a Congress that would have defeated, among many things, the reciprocal trade treaties; a Congress which would follow Joe Martin and reject the idea of conscription without regard for its place in the context of our new world organization. Why you insist on returning to that line of argument is not clear to me.

The story of the visit of Ibn Saud was very good; I enjoyed it. As for my poker fortunes do not fret Daddy, I feel that I am on the road back already. Well enough for today - we may see National Velvet tonight. Got mail from Juj, Aunt Anne, Bob Harwood and home.

All my love,

Regards to Doris

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sumner", written in dark ink on the aged paper.