

August 1st

Dear Ones,

I am solvent again and it feels good; things are in typical Santo shape today - a whirlpool with Thorpe in the middle. About ten things going on at once, nobody exactly sure what he is doing, and the air full of talk about generals and shipments and police up and everything else under the sun. One bit of conversation deserves to be recorded as indicative of the way Thorpe is: we were working on tires and tubes and we came to a certain size tube - the sergeant commented that we had seven tubes of ~~that~~ size. "Seven tubes!" exclaimed the good Major, "Seven Tubes, is that all?" Then without taking a breath he turned to a visiting officer and said, "Seven tubes is a lot of tubes!!" I almost split my sides - a direct contradiction in two consecutive sentences! Last night I wrote at some length to Miss Pease and I sent a quick V-mail anniversary greeting to Aunt Mel and Uncle Harold; we then played poker until midnight - I am becoming convinced that I must be terribly lucky in love. Need I say more?!!

You certainly went overboard for "The Mountainhead" Mother; when Joe Bothwell was here I went up to his tent one night and his tentmate read me a portion of the book in which a girl marries a male character and goes off to spend the wedding night with her lover. Hardly the normal procedure - I never did see the book again or get around to reading it. I always meant to. This morning for some reason I started taking those Calcium pills again. If I run low (at present I have a more than adequate supply) I will let you know. As soon as some of this nonsensical pressure lets up around here I am going to get my teeth checked again.

It seems to me that Mrs Craig's comment on Greece is a little naive. "Yet if Britain were to get out of Greece, how would she (Greece) protect herself?" That's hardly justification for interference in the internal workings of the country. And after all, whom is Britain to protect Greece against? The PM editorial on the passage of the Charter touched on a very critical point. We are still in the first phases of making our post-war international participation effective; the Charter cannot stand by itself. It is linked to our economic policies, our political viewpoints, our military attitudes and programs; we must understand what commitments are required of us, we must be willing to undertake the important ramifications of our new position and responsibilities. We must develop a consistent policy, but more important a consistent attitude.

There seems to be no official news coming from Potsdam these days; every commentator is having a field day guessing about what they are talking about and trying to decide what sort of negotiators men like Byrnes, Truman, Bevin, and Attlee will be as they meet the more experienced Russian group. As usual I find myself feeling very optimistic. There seem to be a number of proponents of the idea that Dulles or some equally prominent Republican be taken into the State Department as an Assistant; the idea being to give the State Department a non-political continuity between administrations, should the party in power change. I wonder if Truman is ready to make that advanced a step yet - I am inclined to doubt it.

The exchange between Vandenberg and Grew helped to clarify the Polish question prior to our recognition of the current regime. A lot of the ill feeling toward Russia on the Polish question is based (as it so often is) on ignorance of the true facts and issues involved. It seems pretty clear that the secret diplomacy of the past is pretty close to a dead duck now; there is so much interest in the affairs of state that no question escapes the public's eye and we are mindful of the simple fact that all decisions affecting our relations with other nations are important to the country as a whole. I think that we will see a development of the American Cabinet role to a point closer to that of current British parliamentary procedure, where cabinet members find themselves under the constant close scrutiny of the House of Commons.

That sort of clears things for today; Japan is certainly taking a terrific beating.

Regards to Doris

all my love,