

August 3rd 1945

Dear Ones,

We were on the go up until midnight last night and today I am a little the worse for wear and taking it easy. I really hated to get up this morning - there was a light drizzle and it was perfect sleeping weather! You certainly manage to make up for my lack of a Sunday paper - about the only thing I didn't receive from the weekend of the 22nd was the report of transactions on the Bond market!

I see that PM has joined the throng to urge people that the returning veteran won't need a psychiatrist; all that will be required will be normal affection and understanding, good cooking and what have you. By this time, the awaiting home fronters must be well aware of the proper approach to take to the returned veteran. I wonder if the average person at home thinks about how things will be when we get back as much as the soldier overseas does. There are few of who will not admit daydreaming or thinking about getting home, the first things they'll say and do. (You know the famous story of the ski-trooper who was asked what the first thing was that he would do upon going home; he wouldn't answer the question but he said that the second thing he would do would be to take of his skis!) I still feel that each person must realize that his problem is more or less unique and approach it as best he can; I do not feel that psychological adjustments will be so serious as to be a cause for national medical and social concern.

The Commander article on the presidency certainly stayed on safe grounds; when I started it I was hoping that he would set his standards of greatness and fit the various Chief Executives to it. But he didn't, and it turns out to be an analysis of great leadership rather than great Presidents. As a result there is little in the article that is new or provocative as he outlines the political requirements of the Presidency. As for the Lerner editorial on Japan: I agree that there can be no soft peace, and I agree that, as in Germany, we must clearly understand that the Japanese political system (based on the Emperor and Emperor worship) and the Japanese economy must also be destroyed. Again, we are fighting more than the military leaders; the entire society that is Japan, that has flaunted its growing power for 40 years, that has waged war and practiced deceit, that has never stood behind a liberal group in time of crisis, must be defeated and reshaped to an entirely different mold. One must is that the emperor must go and the society reoriented to a new set of principles; that seems to me to be basic.

The Stark article in the TIMES highlights the problems of Schwellenback; it is clear that some new policy must be evolved and the agencies to effect it must be consolidated. Since the Smith-Connally Act, the NLRA, and the wartime legislations are involved as well as the policies subsequently outlined by the WLB and the other agencies (the most important being the little Steel formula) it would seem that this reform would have to go through Congress and fit into the entire scheme of our post-war employment-production picture. Labor is worried about the cutback-reconversion period and is obviously looking for the "fringe methods" to get some insurance. The end of the war is obviously going to leave us with a situation loaded with dynamite. One thing to my mind is certain: attacking the unions will accomplish nothing - our planning must be done on the basis of the union as the representative of the workers.

I guess that Shipstead was the other opponent of the Charter, from reading some of his pre-vote comments. The Matthews report from India would indicate that the Wavell proposals have raised British prestige in India to the highest point since Cripps was first sent to study the situation; if the gist of the report is correct, it is now up to the Hindus and the Moslems to agree to the basic idea of a united India and to work from that basis. If the negotiations of the next few weeks lead to the acceptance of the Wavell terms and the Indians look upon the Labor government as holding the promise for a fairer treatment and less likelihood of interference to the detriment of general Indian social and economic progress, we might well see the first major advance in India for a long time. The British have quite plainly put it up to the Moslems and the Congress Party this time.

I see that Pegler is still hard at work on Elliott Roosevelt. If he only had a constructive and logical purpose in his writing, if he only stood for some positive and progressive policy of corrective action consistent with our national scene, Pegler's muckraking would be a healthy and a helpful element. The Lowell Thomas columns are pretty poor - he does not have the old punch or pertinence. David Lawrence still seems to thrive on speculation about the war against the Japs.

Mike Freedman's address is now 15 Spruce Place - but whatever you sent to the old Willow Place address will undoubtedly reach him with no difficulty. One of the Herald editorials commenting on the prospective approval of the Charter and the other international commitments made by our Congress says, "The stage seems set for the final step which Wendell Willkie had in mind when he wrote "One World". That to my mind is to give the wrong impression; the one world of Willkie will not be achieved merely by the passage of these specific bits of legislation. The Herald attitude opens the way for those who say, "well, we passed the Charter, now let's go back to the old routines." Another Pearson column touches upon the Army Navy policy of stockpiling even though 50% of our war is over and the bulk of the supply problem, even counting on the end of the war as late as 1947, has been licked. I am on the tail end of the Army supply system and if it runs at the top the way it runs at the bottom it deserves the criticism. But there are safer topics for our correspondence!

OK for this noontime -

All my love,

Sammy

Regards to Doris