Dear Ones,

Here is something which I wrote to Herb Schreiber and which I want to copy off to you for the sake of my record:

In basic biological and social analysis the Jew should be no more than a fair skinned man who believes in the God of Moses because of the accident of his birth. However, successive societies have given the Jews labels and since these societies have followed similar courses of intolerance and bogytry they formed a mold for the Jew in which he eventually more or less took shape. Specifically because of his imposed handicap he depended more on his wits and skills - he was forced to; and the environmental factor of always striving and pushing ahead has been passed on. And the result in our day and age is that the individual Jew although he may feel no different and in nine cases out of ten neither acts or looks different from his gentile neighbor finds himself with a social label; and try as he may he cannot escape it by his individual effort alone. It has been a continual matter of action and reaction on the part of both society and the Jew and the situation continues. For the American Jew especially, this social factor poses many questions - he regards himself as a member of the American political and social society and at most as part of the Jewish religious society. But the world in which he lives has attached political and social and economic meanings to his religious affiliation. I think that it is unrealistic for the American Jew to deny these conditions or to attempt to ignore them. Now then, my feeling is that because of the feature of action and reaction no citizen of Jewish faith can ignore the current issues concerning the Jews in the world today; I do not mean this to be interpreted as an entirely selfish argument. I believe that in the Jewish question you can find as good an index as possible to the health of your society in terms of the effectiveness - not of tolerance - but of wholehearted understanding and practice of the basic principles of social equality. Therefore there is a double reason for the conscientious American of Jewish faith to interest himself in the questions at hand - Palestine, resettlement in Europe, aid and relief to stricken areas, educational work, anti-defamation programs... when you think in terms of reconstruction and the building and reform of societies, I feel that the Jewish question ranks in importance with any other.

Today is quiet - my bad luck in continuing in poker - either I shall stop playing or start winning! The movie tonight is "The Clock" so I will probably go for the first time in quite a while. The Fulbright article on the peace we want was excellent; it was a clear statement of what the true responsibilities and ramifications of our world leadership are as I have read. Who is "Forsis A. Westall" - a man or a woman? I am referring to the commentator on Maine politics whose column you send me now and then. I noted that there is talk of Payne for governor in '48 - as close as he came to Sewall in that tough election of '40, he certainly would be a logical successor to Hildreth after the latter's two terms. The Pearson report on the Balkans reflects a serious situation at which I do not believe to be as critical as the current difficulties might suggest. This is a case where the Polish formula could and should be applied to Rumelia and Bulgaria particularly. Russian policy is so clear that there seems no justification for misunderstanding it - they are determined that the Balkans will never again be victimized by the divide and conquer methods of European diplomacy with the result that anti-Soviet governments can find their way to power. This is not to justify the excesses of the first days of liberation from the Nazi yoke. This is not to say that the rest of the world is not as concerned as is Russia with the evolution of friendly and popular governments in the Balkan states. Some equitable solution can be reached - we are dealing with politically unstable units where irrational nationalism and hates run high; the proper approach is not to fan these hates and add fuel to the fire, but to achieve momentary stability and thus defuse the problem out at a conference table. Russia must have her guarantees but not her free hand if we are to regulate this situation - a parallel to the British in Greece - we must take the initiative; that, too, was the point of the Fulbright article.