

1 October 1945

Dear Ones,

Last night I saw Boom Town and then went to bed early; this morning has been normally busy and annoying. I just penned a short note to Lou Raybin; a year ago when we tried (unsuccessfully) to start a correspondence, he complained that we had no common ground, that he could not see anything of value coming from our correspondence - I hope that now that he is married, he has come some part of the way in his program of readjustment and that he will respond to my overture. We shall see. I am enclosing a \$50. money order which I wish you would use jointly for Chanukah and birthday presents for yourselves. (And please write me when it arrives and remind me to tear up my stub - I always forget to tear them up and I have about five now, some as much as a year old; I haven't cleaned out my wallet in that long a time. We got a nother card from Art Lewis. he is proving true to his word; he was on his way through the processing center at Fort Lewis, Washington; he will get his 45 day leave but is liable to be recalled before it is completed in order to be discharged. He comments that prices in 'Frisco are unbelievably high.

I enjoyed the symposium of Jewish Youth Attitudes and it reassured me that my reactions are pretty representative of most of the young people of my age group. My major objection is that none of the articles touch on what I consider a basic point: the negativism of current Jewish life which is almost universally attributed to ignorance and/or understanding of cultural and religious Judaism must also be attributed to the fact that there is a failing in the religion someplace which has allowed this ignorance and indifference to grow. Most of the catalogued attitudes - Judaism has no pattern, its culture is inapplicable today, - are part of that negativism. It is encouraging to note that this attitude toward the religious phase is balanced by a strong emphasis on democracy without losing identity as members of a distinct social group.

I really enjoyed your long letter of the 21st, Mother - I must admit that Succouth came and went and I was blissfully unaware of it. I am glad that my letters arrive in fairly good time - even if they do come in bunches (of course, that might help me a little since if I skip a day every now and again it becomes less obvious if a week's mail accumulated and arrives all at once.) I appreciate your words of comfort on the discharge picture - I just don't want you to get overly optimistic; the fact that all men with 60 points will be on their way by December 1st is good news - it is official today. The officer status is still indefinite apparently. My attitude remains the same: my first aim is to get off this stagnant rock. After that I will concentrate on getting home and out. I am glad that the point system will go after December; it is obviously not being followed strictly enough to be of real value. Another aspect is that unless points are made cumulative the men overseas get a bad break, since they get no extra credit altho they are overseas after the date of computation. Next Spring is still my deadline.

Thanks for the news of Richard Parker - I guess he feels better to be in uniform but I feel sorry for him, for he will be in for a long time, I fear. I do hope that some word on Bill's safety has come through. I guess Teddy must be quite a young man by now - or is he still a peanut? Are both the girls married by this time? I see that we got to talking about my marriage again - hmmm - I am glad to see the liberal attitude both as concerns the speed of my marriage and my financial situation. I can't help but think of the time we went into Boston to buy a suit for me, and the first one I put on was exactly what I wanted, it pleased you, Mother, and everything about it was right, but we still tried several others before coming back to it. I can't promise that I will repeat this routine when I think that I have the right girl! To be honest with you, I am not worried about finding that girl - I have a very strong feeling that she exists and that we will meet. And even my tour overseas has not lowered my standards one iota.

I think that your attitude on the Children ~~from~~ Palestine movement is wise, Mother. You cannot accept any further responsibility and the Federation cannot be weakened by such a separate venture. Your decision on no solicitation from Jews was the only one possible.



That about does it for this noontime - I will drop the Thurmans a line at the Florida address - I will try to get to some of the clippings. The news came through last night that Truman had instructed Eisenhower to take special care of the Jewish displace persons and that he had requested British action toward allowing these people to go to Palestine. I have not heard any of the full details but it sounds like a good first step. Tonight I hope we can resume our bridge game; last night before I fell asleep I tried to read some Whitman but I could not respond to it.

It turned out to be a long afternoon, but I think I can add a word or two before the movie starts - we have "Our Vines have tender Grapes" - sounds like Walt Whitman, doesn't it? I guess it should be good heavy entertainment. And we have a bridge appointment for after the show.

I am waiting for the full news of the French elections; apparently although De Gaulle did not grant the electoral procedural changes requested by the Left Wing elements, they were victorious in a general sweep. This will obviously have a great affect on the General's political future and on the make-up of the "Fourth Republic." I think that De Gaulle is astute enough now to retain a position of leadership despite the Leftist tinge to the reconstruction period. The Left in France so far has been conspicuous by its intra-group unity. It is good to see elections taking the headlines again - there certainly are enough of them all over the world. The O'Dwyer forces in NYC are getting out their big guns when they get Wallace and Mrs Roosevelt to speak out as leaders of the NCPAC. I still feel that the NY gubernatorial race of 1946 will be much more indicative in questions of national trends than the confused City picture.

I'm off to the movies with Bob Howes -

All my love,

Regards to Doris.

