

11 October

Dear Ones,

Well, I am on guard tonight - perhaps I should say "gahd" because that is the way I am accused of pronouncing it; so I will celebrate Columbus Day with my little pistol on my big hip. I just finished a three page letter to Jay Kay. Last night I culled your clippings which are left down to two envelopes and then we played bridge until around midnight. The game left me feeling peppy rather than tired and so I picked up H Allen Smith's *Lost in the Horse Latitudes* - I did not put it down until I had finished it at some awful hour in the morning (I had forgotten to wind my watch so I have no idea how much sleep I got last night.) I was fortunate in that I did not wake Milt up with my chuckling - I enjoy the lightness and casualness of Smith's sexy style. We are just about due for some mail - I should hear from Herb Schreiber who is now stuck on a four month stretch on one of the isolated islands.

I am now in the Claims office waiting for the local French delegate to show up so we can go out and inspect some gun carriages which I hope he will decide not to buy; if he buys them we will have to detach the guns from the carriages which is a hell of a nuisance. We cannot sell any arms or ammunition, of course, in this disposal of surplus property.

The news of Peron's resignation is good - I hope it is confirmed. Now we will have to see what becomes of his clique and what method is selected to restore Argentina to a Democratic and constitutional basis. A few days ago I read one of the David Lawrence columns in which he said that the Belgian Bulge, like Okinawa and Pearl Harbor, should be investigated to find out why we suffered reverses. He is certainly hipped on that subject - for to my mind there is next to nothing to be gained from a million and one specific investigations of specific issues. It is agreed that the Armed forces have made mistakes, and that these mistakes reflect failures in organization, policy, and what have you - but that is not justification for a policy of witch hunting every time a mistake is made. It was my original intention not to comment on the Lawrence column, but it has been on my mind; I think that his criticism is justified in the general framework of the need for reform and constant civilian prodding - but the emphasis of his approach is on criticism rather than constructive suggestion.

I am now back at the office - I'll hold guard mount in a few minutes - it is hot as hell. The French delegate didn't want any of our stuff but we will offer it at auction to the civilians. A few passing thoughts on the London conference: it is interesting to note that Australia and New Zealand have sided with Russia on the Balkan questions - any number of conclusions might be drawn from that, the most obvious one for us being that we have no real justification for tying ourselves to British policy. Another thing that strikes me is that in the discussion (of Italy particularly) the nations whose fates are up for solution are not being consulted - maybe Britain wants Italy to have Trieste, but maybe the Italians don't want it at the risk of unfriendly relations with the Yugoslavs. It is something to think about, I guess. I don't know if the *Times* has taken sides or not, but from the articles you have sent it would seem that Goldstein is really in their fighting and stands to give O'Dwyer a good run for his money.

Now to your letter of the 27th, Daddy - I have already touched on the discussion of Zionism in it. I take small comfort in the similar misfortunes of others - like Juj's being stuck out here too - but I hasten to reassure you that I still laugh aloud in the movies only to discover that nobody else has seen anything funny. If that is your criterion, then all is well. The other night I almost spoiled a wonderful radio boner by foreseeing it - the reporter was talking about service personnel crowding the stateside hotels and closed with the remarks that "In some cities all the hotel rooms are occupied by service men and women." I roared a split second early and just missed drowning out the key word "women." I have gone over your letter and I will rehash my marginal notes: I do not agree that the current wage disputes are a fight to the finish or a show down - they are merely the opening gun, a test of strength - as I think the reports of successful negotiations and strike delays will tend to prove. This is not to deny that labor is starting its swing for its post war security. Secondly I think you overemphasize the revenge motive in Labor's actions, Daddy. Give Labor a little credit for some honesty and for some consideration of the overall national economic picture. I will agree every time with you when you point out that Labor responsibility is a

big but essential order. I thought that Frank Gill worked for the Boston and Maine - I'm sure he did - remember those playing cards?

I'm off to the guard - will finish up in the morning, I guess. I got my rear chewed slightly by Major Moore today - seems that he thinks the people around here, I was the ready symbol of us all, are thinking too much of going home and not enough of our responsibility, etc. He made other quaint references to how we spend our time, but I had better not quote them here.

It is now Friday morning - had a small fire and an accident while on guard last night - no bother with either however. We played Bridge from 7 to 12 so that took up the early part of the evening. Every day's newsheet carried more pro's and con's about the atomic bomb - the reasonings which some people use against sharing the bomb smack of the best "we have an ocean on each side of us" arguments which were abused for so long. On the question of aid to Russia, I think that it is necessary step in international reconstruction but it will have to fit into our scheme of economics and politics in Europe - something more to bargain with if we need it. On the strike question, The TIMES feels that the 30% request is too high, but grants the validity of the argument that prosperity and production rise when prices can be maintained while wages are increased. The request may be high for bargaining purposes. The maintenance of wartime levels is a good goal to shoot at, but Labor like every other economic group must be prepared for unfavorable transition situations.

Later on I would like to discuss the unemployment legislation and the arguments about "loafers and malingerers." OK for now -.

All my love,

Regards to Doris.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'S' followed by a series of sharp, upward-pointing strokes that resemble a jagged line or a series of 'V' shapes.