

October 24th 1945

Dear Ones -

Allah be praised and a salute to Robert Hannegan - lo and behold! a glimmer, and now a gleam of that light which is mail. This noontime, manna in the form of letters from Milt Fishman, Juj, Franklin Allen, and 7 envelopes from home descended upon me. All of your letters were dated the 9th of this month leaving some 10-14 days' mail still unaccounted for; this is the first night I have written from the office in months. I have given up on the portable, it sticks too much for fast typing. I have just written to Milt and Juj and Frank - somehow managing to fill up a page or better to each - and now I come to your letters. I sort of feel like waiting until the missing epistles show up, since some of your references and some of the clippings cover affairs about which I am still in the dark. I am still counting on a real deluge one of these days and for the moment I guess I will have to stop my work on the great American novel; I actually have the germ of an idea for a story and I undoubtedly will have a lot of time on Santo to see how it works out.

We have a new CO - a chap named Spaulding. Chap is hardly the right word - he is about 50, I'd say; his face strikes me as reflecting a rather gruff attitude - he does not look extremely intelligent or sensitive. But I will not prejudge him - heaven knows that I am hoping that he proves to be a cooperative and clear-thinking officer; if Major Moore gets him under his thumb, I will really be boxed when Thorpe leaves. Spaulding has been overseas only a month or so - he may be GI. I don't think that he plays bridge, so we are still looking for a fourth.

Before I get on to your letters - I must doff mon chapeau to Harry Truman: he did what I didn't imagine in my fondest hopes that he would - he is now solidly behind the plan for one year of military training. If I ever had the opportunity I would certainly like to testify before Congress when that measure is discussed. You know that I agree with Truman and his announced stand on this question one hundred percent - he apparently feels that it is politically feasible to work on the basis of one year's training with Congress. And this declaration of Truman's is evidence that he will not compromise on the critical issues, that he will force them before Congress and before the public. So much the better.

If the clippings from the Press Herald are any indication, the general tone of the American Press is very much pro-Zionist on almost any basis of argument; I wonder what the attitude of the British Press is? The Zionist question seems to pass from one crisis to another without ever coming to a solution or to a head; it is difficult to say at this time whether or not these delays are in our favor or not - I am inclined to believe not, since every day brings deemphasis of the European question which is currently the strongest Zionist talking point. I wish that you had not put that \$50. into bonds but rather had used it, say, for a welcome mat!! (Of course, it may be next fall before you could put it out for me, but it is the idea that counts!) I agree with your attitude toward the "Children to Palestine" campaign idea, Mother, and I know that "reason" will win over "emotion" - no individual cause is worth risking the entire Federation. If the "52 for 40" slogan is of labor's own choosing then I think that the slogan-pickers showed poor judgment; you know my reaction to it. I take it that in one of the missing letters you tell me of Bill Parker's release; that is good news. You tell me not to let it bother me if I skip a day or two in my writing to you - this past week I have taken you at your word! I am glad that Lou Raybin is back in mufti - I imagine the details on that transition are on the way to me too.

Daniell reports from Berlin that the rate of discharges is causing our occupation to turn administrative set-ups back into German hands more and more; his suggestion is that we are nullifying our own professed programs in so doing. He may be right and the answer is obvious - first the draft must be continued to make replacements available and secondly it must be supplemented by our peacetime system to make manpower constantly available. It is important that the American Public be constantly reminded that our responsibility to our men is not only that they get home but also that the peace is secured for them and for t/