

October 26th 1945

Dear Aunt Anne, Uncle Joe, Joan, and Bobby,

I must admit that, as happy as I am for you that Bob is now at Harvard, I felt a slight twinge at the thought that my young cousin has entered college ranks: it was a reminder to me that although I have some work to do for my degree, I am slowly but surely slipping from that happy category of men known as undergraduates. College is like so many things - it is a wonderful process which ^{you} cannot really appreciate until you have completed or left it; it prepares you in such a way that you are denied a full return, no matter how you try, to the pleasures and richness, the combinations of serious efforts with good times and fellowship, the times of imagination and effort without burdening responsibility, the fabric of that college life. I don't have to wish Bob anything - if he is ready and willing, and I am sure he is, Harvard will take him by the hand and pattern him in her rich mold. To my mind - I am prejudiced - the Freshman year is better spent in the Yard; but it is one of necessities of wartime adjustment that Frosh be put into the houses right away. I am probably wrong - or perhaps being overseas has made me overly sentimental - but the idea of keeping all the Freshman together in the heart of the College strikes me as being a sound one. As far as I know, our class (44) was the last "Yard" group; our sophomore year saw Pearl Harbor and the major changes. In any case it doesn't ^{make} much difference, and I know that Bob will hit his stride as well from Winthrop as he might from Weld.

Everything is quiet on Santo - except for the continual background music of complaints and griping. Among the men who are eligible to go home and get out and who are waiting for transportation it is easy to spot the impatience and the unwillingness to work. The rub is that those of us who are not yet eligible and who realize that we have time to spend before we go stateside are equally unwilling workers; the predominant attitude is one of indifference, the aim is to do as little as possible and still get by. Time is the key and we are all just "sweating it out."

The current Zionist picture is hardly an encouraging one - the British Labour Government found itself squarely on the horns of a dilemma and refused to choose the way to which it was primarily committed. However, the door is not closed by any means. Truman in no uncertain terms has announced the displeasure of this Government with Britain's refusal to reverse the White Paper policy; Zionist pressure from all sides is still as strong, as it was before the British decision to stick to the Empire Policy of divide and conquer for control of the Levant - it may be stronger. The British conscience is not being given any escape. But there are other avenues, more in line with the principles of realpolitik: the British are now dickering for a loan from America - it is our opportunity to crack the Empire Policy to bits and to bring British foreign and economic policies into a position consistent with our declarations of principles applicable to the entire world. Another method is to make the British position untenable by exposure of British intrigue in the Arab regions, specifically in the formation of the Arab League. This is still a highly critical period and the ranks of American Zionism must remain firm.

Truman, as in the question of Palestine, has proved himself to be a man of decision in the past few weeks; he is off the fence and firmly on the ground - he has proved that he will be a positive president and that he is not afraid to take a stand on controversial issues. To my mind he has grown a great deal in stature. His post-war military program, with which I agree wholeheartedly if it is combined with an Army housecleaning, revealed that he will not be afraid to speak out strongly for what he feels is right. I am waiting for his definite statements on the Atomic bomb and on wage-price policy - whether I agree with them or not, I know that I will respect them.

That is about it for today - thanks for the clippings and the IN FACTS - OK for now; my love to all the clan -

Love,

Summer