I can't let your many paragraphs concerning Uncle Lou's affair and prospective in-laws go uncommented upon, Mother. And then again I want to be careful what I write because I am just as liable as not to fall in love with a girl, say at college, before ever meeting her family and getting to know them all. My first criterion is still Uncle Lou's happiness and the culture of the Seligmans is not necessarily one of the indexes to it. In all probability Uncle Lou's contact with Selma's family will be limited and the important thing is the cordiality of their relationship. The old saw about marrying not only a girl but her family is true but especially in this case only in a limited sense. As for the specific question of "culchah" I must add that my love for Uncle Lou is boundless, but I cannot honestly say that culture, as an intellectual notion or as a predominant interest, has played a noticeable part in setting the tone of his life. Like most of us, he is not strong in his first heritage of the culture of Orthodox Judaism. And the very fact that he never married, never raised a family - which denied him the pleasures of a distinct home life - has similarly kept him from an emphasis on things like libraries and studies which go into the building of a wholesome home atmosphere. And I do not think that Uncle Lou is kidding when he comments that the tone of the Seligman home is not something new to him - you hit it on yourself when you described the party! It must be on the same standard as the Borsey-Gill routine. Now, to my mind, refinement is something entirely different from culture - refinement is predominantly a matter of consideration for others, or at least is one definition of it that anyone can learn what fork to use and how to place the napkin in the lap. Refinement shows up in the little things like subjects of conversation, loudness in speaking, such little things... Billy Rose may have a refined taste for art and music and still not be refined. I am sincere in saying that I do not believe that refinement or culture are primary elements in Uncle Lou's choice of friends - he has a much broader basis of friendship; he likes people - everyone from Joe Plot through Bill Neeleman. And I would be the last in the world to argue with him that the essential goodness of people is much deeper than their outward refinements. This is not to deny that when people reach a certain community standing by virtue of wealth or what have you, society begins to expect certain of those outward refinements of them. I don't know the Seligmans - I can only assume that the atmosphere of their home is not that of the Harvard club on a Tuesday afternoon; I also feel that Aunt Pita is a little too sensitive on these matters to be a reliable barometer to help in forming a decision from such a great distance. Let me run through the descriptive adjectives you have used, Mother - "cordial" "friendly and warm" - the one note which struck me as indicative of something wrong was your comment that "Jewish causes are far distant from their interests." Anyway, your saying that they all like Uncle Lou was the clincher for me - I'll still stick to Uncle Lou.

The next question is tied around the ring - is Uncle Lou setting the proper tone for his married life by starting on that scale: is it an indication that his married life will simply a continuation of the routine he has enjoyed up until now. I think that it must be recognized that any changes that are made will come in time and with natural transitory phases. Uncle Lou is not going to change over night and neither is Selma - the new life can come only after they are married and start the natural sort of re-evaluation. I may be all wrong but one thing seems obvious to me - neither you or Daddy, Mother, can run the risk of antagonism (similar to the case of Lou Raybin) or the result will be not only a family break but a rejection of the very standards which you hope the new couple will adopt. That is about it - I hope I have been clear in what I am driving at - it is easy to tell other people how to act and how to feel, I know. But family attitudes are so critical, especially if the marriage starts with the first months spent in Portland. Thanks for keeping me up to date on all the mechanics of the coming affairs and announcements, too - there are a lot of complications, but they sound like fun... I know you will do everything possible to get things started on the right note.