

30 October 1945

Dear Ones,

Last night I was straightening out my list of address when I ran across an envelope from Uncle Harold - I couldn't imagine why I had saved it until I reopened it and found a \$5 money order inside: the date on it was March 5, 1945. So I cashed in my birthday present 70- day - only seven months late! Thorpe has settled down today and things are going smoothly; the weather is miserably hot. I'll see "Dodge City" tonight while I am on guard - the Officer of the guard has a new duty: keeping the Bnks and black natives out of the movie - the white French are all right. Hmmm. Last night at the table we were discussing the Negro problem after the war - there were Thorpe (New Jersey) Charlie Everitt (Georgia) George Haller (Calif.) Bob Howes (Massachusetts) Charlie Fontenay (Tennessee) and I at the table and I was the only one who maintained that the approach to the post war questions must be to raise the Negro's standards and effective rights rather than to "put them back in their place." My arguments about prejudice and democratic obligations within our society just bounced off them. It was another reminder to me of the importance of effective liberal organization and leadership after the war - the possibilities for driving wedges into the world for which we have ^{EN} be fighting are myriad.

The clippings and letters are all answered except for one batch on strikes and the other on the question of the freedom of the press and the type of information which the American reading public is given. The clippings deal primarily with the PM treatment of Road to Serfdom and the Seldes blasts from IN FACT. In my original comment on R to S I think that I pointed out that although Hayek's general thesis was wonderful stuff for the Laissez-faire boys, he never allows himself to be pinned down to opposing all planning or even to a specific definition of what degree of planning he does oppose. Subsequent criticism has borne me out, I think - I heard over the radio and subsequently received from you the Chicago Round Table discussion from which Hayek emerged badly bruised. If the leader of the discussion had ^{NOT} softened up the ending, you would be justified in saying that Hayek as much as admitted that the exploitation being given his book in the American market was entirely unjustified and that in fact he thought that planning in a great many instances was healthy and necessary for the US. Serfdom is not especially dangerous for the ideas it produces - thinking people will question them before accepting them, and with people who accept them unquestioningly from the start it doesn't make much difference anyway. What is indicative is the exploitation and publicity of the book - The Readers Digest, the Heart papers, the Luce Publications, LOOK, and what have you - these elements put a light on the question of government planning which cannot be swallowed without digestion. A good percentage of the reading public will read the digested versions at most; many will only read the blackest headlines and paragraph headings. I do not agree with Hayek, but I am not saying the boom behind Serfdom is wrong - everyone is entitled to such self expression and its follow-ups - the important things are that the public know who is sponsoring such a book and why they are sponsoring it. When PM takes a stand you know why - the same cannot be said for the NAM.

That brings me to the main Seldes thesis - he does not hold it alone; he is merely in the van of almost all the spokesmen for the Left of Center groups in the country, from Pearson through Robert Sherwood. The thesis is simple - Seldes claims that elements in big business are strong enough through their advertising and through the very fact that publishing is big business to lead to subtle coloration and distortion of press coverage of critical issues. The Chicago Tribune is not subtle - it is the opposite of PM, more or less - but the other press services are because they will not admit or generously reveal their colorations. Seldes in his analyses of the treatment given Russia, Tito and Mihailovitch, New Deal legislation, Eisenhower's statements concerning cartels, is constantly plugging away on these points; his newsletter is like a weekly "Under Cover" - it is saturated with details of NAM traffic with known native Fascists (and similar movements) in its attempt to counteract the omission of these items from normal press coverage. Very often it seems as though Seldes is one of the sources for Pearson's revelations and for men like Harold Segal who exposed native fascism for the Scripps-Howard papers. Naturally Seldes gives emphasis to labor news and attempts to expose the misleading treatment labor news is given - an example is his reprinting from Harpers of the figures showing Army-Navy AWOLS to be higher by percentage than Union strike losses in man

their children. I guess that Eisenhower is the logical man to replace Marshall but I do not like the idea of his leaving Germany in less capable hands than his own. There may be repetitions of the Patton incident at lower, but just as important, levels. The War Department probably wants Eisenhower around for the showdown on the question of combining the war and navy departments. The Cunningham explanation of the Patton incident almost bowled me over - not only was it directly contradictory to the reports of responsible correspondents, but it was contradictory to what Patton himself admitted the next day under Eisenhower pressure. Cunningham's attempt to build up Patton at the cost of planting undocumented anti-Russian terroristic stories is hardly justifiable; Patton's relief from the occupation detail in no way reflects on his soldiering as Cunningham infers. LaGuardia and his active campaign for Morris seem to be building up the crescendo of the election-eering; his attack on both the "major" candidates was really hitting hard.

I see that Harvard is playing Yale on the 1st of December at New Haven - I hope that the caliber of the Crimson's play improves: I did not especially like the Tufts and New London scores! That is about it for tonight - I'll mail this in the morning -

- Thursday morning -

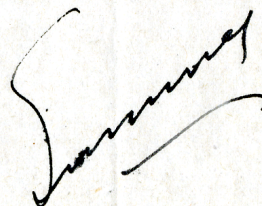
Since I have stopped playing cards and because of the poor quality of the movies, I have been able to get to bed early these past few days. The heat of the day seldom leaves me feeling very peppy at night and I try to limit my reading now so that my eyes won't tire too quickly. The result is that I have been getting to sleep early and getting up early and I really feel refreshed in the morning. That explains why at 7 in the morning I am down here continuing this letter to you.

Thanks for the sports and drama clippings from the Times. From all the reviews I take it that the Morgenthau book pulls no punches in outlining a policy of stripping Germany of its economic potential for war. It is encouraging to note in the News broadcasts that our military chiefs in both Asia and Europe have taken steps to destroy the cartel systems and the economic structures of our enemies. We are gradually getting closer to the effective enforcement of our Potsdam proposals. The aftermath of the London conference failure - that is, the Byrnes' speech - by its very frankness and honesty helped to clarify the issues involved and to make eventual ironing out of difficulties more easy. Byrnes very well knows that his greatest strength lies in an informed American public; the clearer we are on where we stand, the firmer ground our negotiators are on. So far I have only seen the commentaries on the Byrnes' talk but I take it that he explained that the question was one of the method of making our international settlements, not the nature of those agreements.

Well, that about covers what letters I received yesterday - I am now hungry for some more mail!

All my love,

Regards to Doris

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Eisenhower', written in a cursive style.