

30 October 1945

Dear Ones,

I have just rooted and tooted through Dodge City and one-gun Bernie is redy for anything! However I am too lazy to go down to the office and so I will write to you on this portable in the tent, even if the whole left side has a tendency to stick. It is a good night - no rain so far - now if I can only find all the guards when I make my tour of inspection around midnight I'll be all set. Tonight at the movie we were talking to Major Moore and he professed that from now on he is going to be mellow!! we shall see -- I met the Colonel today - he seems like a nice fellow; apparently he has never had anything to do with supply and everything is new to him. The news of Brazil has me befuddled - maybe Vargas too has something up his sleeve. The news tonight was pretty upsetting: Chungking-Communist fighting, Indonesian revolts, Brazilian politics, home front unrest, the Marshall statement that the current demobilization is nullifying our ability to meet our international commitments, that we do not have enough replacements for the demobilized.

From the New York times clippings, I took my introduction to the current strike questions - by the time you read this it may be very passé; at least I hope that in his next address Truman will explain and consolidate the Government's wage-price policy. It is agreed that the method chosen for the oil dispute, which amounted to compulsory arbitration, is to be avoided at all costs. It is unfair to all the parties concerned and in the end will nullify the possibility of effective agreement; it will force disproportionate government dictation of wage-price scales. The Truman formula is fine - although it is hardly a substitute for a working system. My first disagreement with the Times comes in its attack on the Government policy of continued overall price control; it is my firm belief that that policy is necessary to avoid the spiral of inflation - the case of the building trades is a prime example of the danger we face. And the Times is wrong in saying that Washington is trying to solve the wage question in a "different way" - rather Truman's basic formula makes it clear that it is the government policy to allow only real wage increases, those that do not increase prices proportionally. The immediate government problem is to enlarge on the formula to make it something to work from, to supply some of the answers. (The eventual rectification of the Smith Connally Act and the Wagner Act do not answer the immediate questions.) It is easier to talk about the formula than to work it out; each labor dispute has its own peculiar aspects. Strikes need not be unhealthy if they accomplish true results and avoid continual recurrences of the original difficulties. The government must set the price policy-levels and then let industry and labor thrash out the differences on that basis at it effects each industrial group; the government cannot set an overall labor price and expect to solve anything.

The next question seems to be the specific dispute at GM; wildcat strikes have hurt the Reuther plans and weakened Thomas's position. But the UAW is still strong and as it faces GM primed for reconversion the large



the bargaining position of both sides looks about even - although GM will get the better press. I am not in a position to say, but there seems reason to feel - from figures given by Pearson - that the GM denial of large war profits is not entirely true.

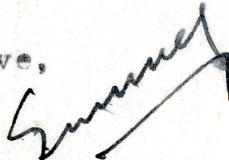
I am now down in the office trying to decide how to spend today - my reports are due again and I rather dread starting them; with all the turn ins this month things are bound to be slightly confused! Boy, do I have a system of records - if I ever had a spell of forgetfulness, it would be too bad! Nothing at all happened on guard last night, as usual.

One letter came in yesterday - it was the most recent, October 18th. My mail to you must be coming in in fine shape - you refer to things which (it seems to me) I couldn't have written about more than a few days ago. Being on this island where every day is exactly the same and one week is the same as the one before it and the one following, you lose some of your sense of time and the relationship of events. Whenever we try to figure out how long someone has been gone from the island we have the worst time - we can't even fix the date in terms of such major events as V-E day or the end of the War. I will let you know when I hear from Wisconsin about that Psych course. We will thrash out the question of how I will spend next summer if (and it still is a big "if") I am home and out by then when the time comes. I will be looking forward to receiving the Louis Bernstein version of "How to Influence AG officers and convince Colonels;" I will save my comments until after I receive it.

I hope the Presque Isle trip worked out as pleasantly as you planned on Daddy. And I am still with you on your idea of a family-less visit to New York. OK for now ..

I'll finish this on this machine - it is noontime of a pretty busy October 31st. We are shipping some paint and we have so few non-coms that it looks as though I will have to put myself to work as the checker! So far no mail today - perhaps some will come in, although with the good deliveries we have had in the past 5 days I guess we can't expect too much.

All my love,



Regards to Doris.