

5th November 1945

Dear Ones,

September mail is still coming in - I heard from Ruthie (whom I answered) Dot (to whom I will have to explain why I haven't written for a month) the Osgoods, and two notes from home. Today was hectic - we started loading a ship for Noumea only to have the vessel diverted to Tokyo and everything had to be taken off and all plans changed - great stuff. Not much news - I finished Ybarra's charming Young Man of Caracas and am now reading LaFarge's superb "Laughing Boy" - Sprague is trying to get a New Zealand furlough but I don't think the brass will let him go; it is typical of their policy of holding personnel - Thorpe and I explained that we could spare him for two to three weeks, but apparently it is no soap. It is indicative to me that they will not release me for such a leave if I applied. I know damn well that as much as the brass dislike Thorpe they have some respect for his rank and his skill and that they have little or no confidence in me - in my own way I don't fit their pattern any more than Thorpe does. Colonel Pownall has left and Spalding is on his own; the new Executive officer is not Moore, but Major Trosper who used to be Moore's assistant!! It can only be interpreted as a slap at Moore. Trosper is unimaginative, hard-working, plodding, comparatively good natured, and all in all he seems rather childish, somewhat reminiscent of Harry Goodwin. The movie tonight is Duffy's Tavern - I will go over in a few minutes and return to this after the movie. I went through the old batch of clippings and separated a few "commentable" items.

The Brewster note strikes an old refrain - it was the Cunningham idea when he suggested that Burton is now on the top as a Supreme Court Justice, but that Brewster may still rise to greater heights than mere membership in the Senate. I think Brewster would have liked to have been Dewey's running mate and he undoubtedly is looking to 1948's republican ticket. I do not think that Vandenberg would be by-passed to give Brewster the speakership of the Senate in the event (very unlikely from this vantage point) that the Republicans gain control of the Senate. I see that Gardiner has denied political ambitions - I hope so. I like his saying that he would be willing to fill a vacancy if one arose - suggesting perhaps that he is some super-political figure ready to make a sacrifice for the public welfare but not to delve again into the depths of campaigning. I still wonder. In general the way the current national picture lines up seems to me to be this; both parties are made up of both liberal and conservative members (I use the terms in very general and broad sense.) The liberal element is predominant in the Democratic executive branch and in the Democratic Party as a whole. The Republican Party seems to be dominated by the conservative element - men like Wherry and Taft are its spokesmen and there can be little doubt as to where they stand. The future of America belongs to the Party which will shake off its conservative element first - but the Democrats have the edge since their conservatives are not in the predominating position.

I know come to the first editorial comments on the Harrison report (aside from DM) before the Eisenhower answer. The Boston Herald's position is like yours, Daddy - let the Jews give up political zionism and a basis of primary agreement can be reached. My feeling is still that there is no point in giving it up until we have the promise of the open door - use it as the final bargaining element, in other words. The point is that our current objective is to force the issue to a decision - and that is not the time to make such a concession. (To my mind the current Arab riots in Cairo which have turned in uncontrolled and irresponsible looting have hurt the Arab case considerably.) One of the NY Times reports which reports that Jews admitted that conditions were not as extreme in some cases as Harrison said, but at the same time the CO of a camp is quoted as saying "the heat has been on in the past two weeks" which in itself is justification of the stir which the Harrison report caused.

Most of the clippings deal with the London conference on which enough has been said and written already. News a few weeks old is all right, but when it gets into months that is too much. OK - I'm off for the movie - be back in a couple of hours.

To say that the movie stank would be to put it mildly - stay away from it by all means. Not even a routine about Harvard and the wonderful antics of Cass Daley ( who is an all-girl Spike Jones Band rolled into one) could save it.

Bill Snower in his letter mentioned that his job, although OSS is officially no more, has remained so that I assume that the functions of that organization will remain. What surprises me is that columnists think they do OSS a favor by trying to make it a public issue - it seems to me obvious that a secret service organization thrives on a lack of publicity - hence Bill Donovan's unpopularity, his failure to use press-agentry. The Mallon commentary on the topic made me think of it..

I am glad to see that the pressure is continuing strong for a consistent and effective peace enforcement. PM has certainly been hammering away at IG Farben and the American policy of reconstruction which apparently is being pursued contrary to the now published orders and directives; not only PM but the Times, Pearson, and the more conscientious columnists seem to recognize in the failure of directives to be carried out to the letter and in complete accord with the spirit of our overall policy toward the Reich a need for constant vigilance. What applies to Germany applies to Japan - Mr Cummings and his "let our General's alone" idea is dead wrong... these days, with the war over, with that last spark of incentive gone from Santo, it is harder and harder to concentrate on clippings, to get my mind to work on the issues they suggest. What bothers me is not so much that I may get rusty, for I have confidence that a few weeks in the States will set me straight again, but that the bulk of the people with the adrenalin of war gone will relapse into their little worlds of indifference once more..

Well, that is about it for tonight

All my love,

*Summer*

Regards to Doris