

12 November

Dear Ones,

I still haven't heard how Harvard fared yesterday. This afternoon the Colonel is having a cocktail party and in a few minutes I will wander over. Then Jerry and I are going to start moving my stuff into his tent. Now to some of the clippings: the first batch deals with labor - if the reports about the change of Ford policy toward unions are confirmed by young Henry's actions it will certainly be an encouraging boost for labor-management harmony. From all reports the union battle against the big three of the automotive industry is underway; Pearson reports that Ford is ready to go up to 23% in wage increases and if that is true it will make the GM arguments look a little sick. It seems to me - and at this point I have read only a few of the comments, not the full TIMES report on the Truman speech - that Truman did only what he little he could do in his speech on wage price policy; as I said in an earlier letter, the best the government can do is to regulate prices and then allow wage policies to be adjusted to it by labor-management discussion. We heard that Higgins had decided to close up his shop rather than grant the AFofL demands in New Orleans; if that is the case, the attitude of the labor union locals can hardly be justified - on the surface they seem to be hurting themselves more than anyone else. I have noticed that of all the clippings you have sent and of the magazines I have read, only Pearson, PM, and Mrs Craig have pointed out that in many instances big business has refused to produce and to operate - the equivalent of labor strikes; they point out that these organizations through rich lobbies are trying to break the CPA and boost prices. The raise in ceilings in the building trade was a perfect example of the type of false boom that results when these lobbies are successful.

I am a little confused by the current atom-control discussions; apparently the May bill proposed to give the Army control of atomic research and development - I certainly hope that the McMahon committee comes up with a sounder program. For my money, it would be more logical to give the question of atomic control over to the Department of the Interior rather than the Military. It would also seem logical to appoint a permanent congressional committee to keep tabs on decisions being made concerning production of atomic energy units and their disposition, research, and commercial applications. The government agencies should be the clearing house and control station for scientific work, not its dictators and decision-makers; freedom of scientific activity can be maintained while overall public control is maintained - there need not even be a suggestion of regimentation of science, merely general agreement as to its projects and an overall coordination. The specific discussions between Truman, Attlee and King will necessarily be secret but we can look for some general statements of policy. And I feel that from these discussions will come an offer of the use of atomic energy to the UNO and a suggestion that an international control commission be set up. For the moment the decision seems to be that the US will retain as secret the know-how of atomic energy; but it is equally clear that it cannot remain a secret. And as we reach the stages where international discussions depend more and more upon specific agreement and mutual trust, I think we will realize that to share the use of the bomb but not its production secret will be an empty distinction. What are we going to do when Russia or Afghanistan comes up with the announcement that they too have split the atom? And every American scientist apparently agrees that that is inevitable. My conclusion is that the US with Britain and Canada must come up immediately with a program of world control of the military use of the bomb, and that the secrecy of the bomb must be reduced to the economic questions. Even at that, it is only a first step and the eventual sharing of the entire secret. Perhaps the Truman plan is to get the international body on military usage set-up before full confidence is given. In the meantime Truman is not justified to diminish the bomb in importance - other nations of the world do not look at it that way. Truman said, in welcoming Attlee, that he wished that the American public would support American foreign policies the way the British line up behind their government - the answer to my mind is easy: let's start pinning down American foreign policy to a specific pattern. I still feel that this will be done - and I still think that we will come up with the right formula, despite Dorothy Thompson and her high

sounding cries of alarm - I do not give her the title of Cassandra because I am a member of the generation which she feels is being betrayed and I feel inside of me that she is wrong.

That sort of covers most of the clippings that have come in within the past few days - I still have the TIMES coverage of certain Truman speeches and the O'Dwyer charges to read, as well as remnant batch of very old clippings which I never did get around to reading, let alone answering. I am pretty well caught up on my mail - the letters which are still to be answered are puzzlers; I will have to wait until I get some bright inspiration for something to say. Maybe a description of the Colonel's cocktail party will do the trick. I don't know what the movie is tonight. OK for now - I will probably finish this up in the morning.

The movie was "Salome, Where She Danced" - a first class  
technicolor stinker - if I couldn't do any better than that,  
I think I'd quit up making movies if Rovers Walter Wanger.  
I am seriously thinking of doing a sequel to the picture  
and calling it "Bernie, where He Didn't Dance."

OK for now

all my love,

Sumner

Regards to Pops