

18 November 1945

Dear Ones,

I have just finished a short essay of a page and a half which I will retype and send to you - it is the result of my saying that I thought I would write to Bob Hale; if you wish to send it, or a copy of it, on to him it is all right with me. It is no more than a rehash and an attempt to organize what I have written to you many times before... today is a quiet Sunday; it is close to noon now and I hope that I can keep my promise of writing to you at length this afternoon.

I enjoyed your reflective attitude of the letter of the 5th, Mother. I think that it is the sensible approach; both you and Daddy have reached the point where relaxation should be the order of the day and you should allow things to come to you and enjoy them to the full your many blessings and fruit of your efforts of the past decades. I am sorry that the CSB headaches continue; with the end of the war will social service workers become more plentiful - in other words is Miss Bowen still indispensable? Despite her faults, Margaret quite obviously is the indispensable person to the effectiveness and functioning of the Bureau. It was interesting to note that Margaret could win Mr Davis over to her side - it would almost seem that she should be the paid director of the organization; but the question of selling herself would plague her there too. You are probably right in your decision on the school board question, Mother; this year has been set aside and I see no reason for you to disrupt your sabbatical. I too would favor the idea of the original nomination coming from such a group as Edith Pitt represented. And it is my conviction that the idea of three vacancies is of no import - one vacancy is all you need. I did not know that the Portland Rotary was such an "exclusive(?)" group - I think that Daddy did well in speaking before them. What is it in Portland that causes things like that - isn't it the City Republican Club (I have forgotten its name) which also denies membership to Uncle Lou and Daddy. When I think of things like that I get more and more ideas as to why I might want to return to Portland after all.

It is now after dinner - a terrible meal, and they tell us that they are going to get worse; all the cooks are leaving on points! I have just run through some of the clippings and I have a lot of reading to do before I can even start to answer them. I have about a half an hour before the football game comes on and I have an idea that it will be hard to type with the radio blaring the football in the background. The PM reversal and support of Morris instead of O'Dwyer with less than a week before the election and when the Democrats election seemed certainty was striking journalistic policy to say the least. It at least was a boost to PM's political integrity. But I fear that it did no good.

As nearly as I can tell the strike picture has not cleared up to any remarkable extent. The Truman statements, as expected, could present an iron-bound formula and nobody seems much happier. What is discouraging is the refusal of Congress to act - it beats me; they would rather shelve than debate, filibuster than decide. All the employment legislation seems to be stymied; Congress's reaction to Presidential prodding seems to be intransigence and continuing inactivity. The vote of Congress to take up the military service act by a committee margin of 13-12 is typical of our problem. Leadership within Congress is weak and the American party system seems to be wobbly on the verge of breaking down. The only strong elements are the "againers" the negativists, the men who are afraid, the men who always object and never make a positive or constructive suggestion or action. We continue to slip and slide; the lack of public interest is the key factor and that in turn reflects the inefficiency of the national political parties. I don't know what to say or what to suggest - but it is clear that we are far from that greatness of democracy which we claim for ourselves; we have not learned even the simplest lessons of politics even now - or so it seems. The specific question of Labor's claims against industry seems to be developing in Labor's favor with the release of the Wallace statements concerning the true interpretation of industrial profits. One of these days the knock down drag-out fight will come.

The game is Navy-Wisconsin - I hope Wisconsin finally turns the trick and defeats the lucky Navy team that is nowhere near the powerhouse it should be. Maybe a year from today

we will be at Soldiers Field, Daddy. Things do not seem to have cleared up to any great extent on the foreign questions. The confusing problem of disarming the Japs in Northern China still is a puzzler, but, as I wrote before, need not affect our basic policy toward the Chinese solution. One thing is certain, however, there is little justification for our using nationalist troops to effect surrender of the Japs when that means ~~our~~ moving those troops under our protection to position where they will manifestly be used for the purposes of civil war. The picture in Java looks better; there seem to be indications that the Dutch are ready for negotiation and that the less interfering the British do the happier both the Dutch and the Indonesians will be.

Now I come again to your discussion (letter of Nov 2) Daddy, of the question of political Zionism as related to non-political work for the end of the White Paper. Your arguments sound all right, but my doubts remain serious - to my mind it is too late for the Zionist groups to renounce political Zionism and convince anyone of their sincerity. And it seems unlikely to me that either non-Jews and Arabs throughout the world or non-Zionists in America would be won over by such a move. I have a great many clippings on Palestine which I have not digested yet and they will probably be the occasion for later comments. My general feeling is still that although it is obvious that current pressure must be placed on opening the gates of Palestine, there can be no official renunciation of the platform of political integrity and guarantees to the Jewish community in Palestine, the platform whose logical conclusion is the majority commonwealth. The Foreign Policy Bulletins are pretty fair, Mother. In answer to your suggestions that I do some serious writing, I think that the Psych course will do the trick in filling up my free time. I think I will take time out now and type for you that little piece of mine. And that will be it for now -

Regards to Doris.

All my love,

Sumner