

September 5th 1945

Dear Ones -

I am burned up - !!!###&&!! - on top of everything else, the work day here has been extended so that it starts at 0700 instead of 0800 and the lunch hour has been cut approximately in half. Of all the -- nonsense, this takes the cake, the last straw. I swear... it is not as though there is a lot of work to do, or as though we are busy now. And certainly the affect on morale, sleep, and tempers will not be compensated by the work that will be gained - in fact work will be lost at first since everyone will be so damned disgruntled. Personally, I don't give much of a damn - it means getting up a half hour early. But the whole thing is unjustified at this stage of the game - while the war raged we started work at 0800; now that it is over we start an hour earlier.. oh, hell, I think that this just typifies the sort of thing that makes life on Santo what it is.

The mail today brought better than a dozen letters from home and notes from Judy, Uncle Don, Aunt Ida, Bill Snow, as well as a large prtrait of Dot Fried. I was surprised that Aunt Ida's note said that Son was being married the 1st - sort of all in a hurry, huh? It was good to know that Helen Morris's spouse is on his way overseas - that they are still sending new blood into this area. (I'm still boiling about the new working day - I think we will have to go on a portal-to-portal basis!! Really though, I think it has its funny aspects - in fact I am going to suggest that all men be issued flashlights in case they decide to push the starting time up any earlier!!)

The PM report of new "democratic" political parties in Japan is not surprising; apparently MacArthur has hardly begin his overhaul - it would seem that policy toward Japan in terms of peace enforcement and positive measures is still very vague. Like Germany, however, Japan must realize that her political regeneration is something which cannot be recognized for a long time - first must come the destructive elements to end forever the militaristic and economic threats of a great power, together with the elimination of the fascist and feudal ideologies; it is only when the new working basis is achieved that such phases as national politics on an independent basis can be allowed to develop. I still feel that PM is too extreme in its concern over the Bevin address and the elements of conservatism in the American State Department; PM is asking for overnight changes that are impossible to achieve. I agree that we need progressive policy toward Spain, Palestine, that the swing to the left in Europe must be supported so that the old elements of the Right which once predominated in Poland, Rumania, and Hungary, will not be returned to positions of power. But to interpret the first dips of Bevin into the diplomatic surf in such a dark consequence is not justified at this time; it is too early to judge - PM can warn and point to the dangers without going overboard at the slightest rocking of the boat. Personally I don't see how the Balkans can be approached with anything but the greatest caution and gradualism, if the proper democratic-socialistic basis of the various state communities is to be established.

I am glad that my books arrived in good shape. I don't think that I need a house key for some time yet - in answer to your question. I guess that this past week was pretty busy for you what with all the family visiting. The shock that hit the rest of the world with the end of lend-lease was proof enough of the importance of America in world affairs; not only does it reflect the relative abundance here and our individual well being, but it is promise of the importance of our export trade - without it the rest of the world may be economically stranded, without it our own economy will be out of balance. I wonder what "Industries, Inc." has in mind in taking over the Marginal Way property? is there a strong Chamber of Commerce move to attract new industry? will it affect the future fate of a Port Bill? The investors must have certain plants lined up in view of the size of the project.

Brownell sounded pretty cocky in his review of Republican chances in 1946 - to my mind all of his chatter is outweighed by the Republican stand on the reciprocal trade agreements and the Taft-McCormick elements in the Republican circles.

OK for now -

Summer