

6 September 1945

Dear Ones,

I have just v-mailed Judy, Aunt Ida, and Uncle Don, and written to Bill Snower; tonight we have "Devotion" and I imagine that we will kill the rest of the evening kibitzing around with Art - it is his last night on Santo! The first day of getting to work at 0700 came off with the expected grumbling and moaning. The men might not resent it so much were it not for the fact that only those working in the depots are affected - the office personnel still keep office hours. It's a great war - someone should remind a few key persons that it is over. Last night I played bridge for a few hours; I did not enjoy it because it was not serious enough - I yearn for a good game of concentration and play. Most of your letters which I received yesterday were predominantly clippings and don't feel very much like diving into them, to be frank with you.

I think that the Byrnes' answer to the Rumanian note was in good order and hardly a cause for concern. I am very much in accord with the plans for the reorganization of our national administrative set-up with an eye to consolidation and elimination of duplication of power and jurisdiction; creating new cabinet seats and bringing all the administrative powers under the cabinet once more seems like a logical approach and I believe that Truman will support the Senatorial report. It must be remembered that the greater the bureaucratic efficiency and avoidance of duplication, the greater the centralization of planning and control powers into smaller groups. As for the size of the post war Army - people seem to forget that half a million men would allow for the equivalent of twelve divisions and supporting troops, on the basis for two men in service troops for every division member. It would certainly seem that a million to a million and a half men (25 to 40 full divisions with supporting troops) would cover our Army requirements as of the start of 1947. Assuming a regular Army of no more than half a million that would mean a requirement of some one hundred thousand men a month to maintain that level. (I don't know what all this proves, but if my arithmetic is correct, I don't see why the post-war Army after 1946 should be such a headache.)

Thanks for sending me Aunt Ida's notes - of course she wrote me the news in her letter to me. A note in passing - she did not spell "Whirley's" last name the same way in her two letters; off hand I wonder if this may not be another Raybin-esque handling of a situation. For Son's sake I hope not; in any event I hope that being married will be at least a part cure for his ills. I am glad that my mail is coming through all right to you; all the stories about Ruth Raybin ring the same - she must be extremely intelligent and quick and independent, as well as attractive. As for Xmas packages - I have no special needs; just send "expendables." I agree with you Mother, that Pacific island bases taken from the enemy should be held under the trusteeship of the United Nations, Hong Kong, Saipan, the Kuriles included. It is something that may well come in time and with growing international confidence; there is no real reason to force the issue now, as long as it is recognized that open policies should be maintained and that eventually world interest would be better served if changes were made. Funny thing - I can always do the PM crossword puzzles, but the TIMES' lick me quite often.

The new Argentinian cabinet appointments do not seem to have changed the leopard's spots in the least. In fact the Peron attitude would support the Cortesi theory that the appointment of members of the Radical Party is no more than an attempt to split that group. It seems to be increasingly and painfully clear that physical rebellion may be the only recourse left to the anti-Peron forces in the Argentine. One of the points covered in the Advocate touched on the fact that UNRRA was indecisive as to aid to displaced Jews in view of their desire to go not to their previous homes but to Palestine; it is another element in the proof for the urgency of action on the question in the near future. It is interesting to note the line up on the Murray Bill; I was surprised that Ruml was for it after the CED report, but I feel that it bears out my contention that it is misinterpretation to read the Bill as indicating distrust of private initiative and enterprise. The PM report on the refusal of radio parts manufacturers to take orders under OPA profit levels is an indication (though certainly not proof) of the type of business attitude which might well sacrifice the national economy to private exploitation. The burden of proof is on big business and the Murray Bill is no more than insurance. (I'll come back to this letter late.)

Trust to get to the more -

DM Snower