

9 September 1945

Dear Ones,

Today will probably be another day of relaxation unless we get an order to put cargo on to a ship; ordinarily I would have taken only the one day off for Rosh Hashonah but the fact that today is Sunday is a happy coincidence. Funny thing - just being away from the office for one day makes me feel as though I am out of touch with things. I plan to go to services as nine o'clock - I guess they'll have a minyan; last night there were not more than twenty present. This weekend is the first time I have used the portable in a long time - the letter "a" still sticks on it. Are you using my portable? I am lost without a typewriter now. Yesterday I began my 17th month overseas; two thirds of the stretch to two years is over, but these next eight months are going to be a tough grind and pull, sweating out Santo.

Now to your letter of two weeks ago, Daddy; I hardly think that your answer to my comment on the Hunt-Crumboch case is fair. The fact that I have made certain decisions and set certain standards does not mean that my "mind is as shut as a CIO closed shop." Keeping an open mind does not deny the necessity of making decisions. And I do not understand your justification for saying that to me "everything that Labor does is right." I thought that in my discussion I made clear why I felt as I did and I feel that I answered the objections which you raise again at that time. Certainly I have made clear over and over again that I favor legislation to improve the mechanics of labor organizations, to make them accountable for funds, and to make their leaders responsible. But this quite distinct from legislation affecting the general rights and position of the labor union in our national economy. Labor is not faultless - unions and individuals often make decisions which are selfish and inimicable with the national welfare; but conditions will be improved only by careful analysis of the current situation and effective remedial actions, to revert a pre-NLRA standard would mean national disruption. I am glad that you favor the Murray Bill, Daddy - as you may have gathered, I have written some of my letters to you on the assumption that you would oppose it. Certainly the condition you state is justifiable in view of the avowed intention of the legislation to be insurance behind private investment-production and to be used only when that factor fails to meet our national requirement. I am also glad that the Laski article helped put a different light on democratic planning; I don't think that I am wrong in sensing a different tone from one which you had in a previous letter. I would add the words "as long as the basis of government remains free and democratic" to your statement, "The people of England have a right to determine by free choice their own national and political destiny."

(I just came back from services.) I am now listening to Bob Benchley on the facts of life and he is pretty hilarious. I just happened to think that Art's going home means that my old charm for getting tentmates home or at least off this island seems to be still working - how I wish it would work for me! Even if I could just get off this island, the change would help to pass the time I will have to spend away from home. The prospects get darker all the time - the CO is determined to keep his command and does not seem very inclined to release officers who are really non-essential. For all that I know, for all that I do, I could leave tomorrow and I would never be missed. That's the Army, I guess. I have been reading selected short stories of Stephen Vincent Benet - they are wonderful and there are a number that are the equal of his famous Devil and Dan'l Webster and that would make excellent radio scripts; one of these days I am going to see if I can get into Eminent Victorians - I haven't done any serious reading for some time.

I enjoyed your report of Lila's visit - you are probably right in saying that she is a normal youngster, notwithstanding some enthusiasms. That sort of covers things for this morning.

all my love,
Sumner

Regards to Doris.