

13 September 1945

Dear Ones,

I just wrote a V-mail to Louis Epstein and answered the enclosed letter from Harvard. Not much special on tap - Thorpe is going down to 502(New Cal) to get his eyes checked, I don't know I will be put nominally in charge or not; I hope not. This dull overcast weather is depressing enough...

I hope I can snap out of this depression - the Cunningham column of the music session in Berlin was one of his better efforts. It is interesting that Hopkins retirement from Dartmouth followed so closely the discussion of the quota question, but I do not believe that there is any connection between the two. Hopkins obviously did excellent work at Hanover and he has earned himself a position in American educational circles. His successor seems to have all the natural attributes - the complexities of administering a college or university, being a teacher, working with alumni, faculty, and student groups, make the number of men suitable and eligible for the job very limited. He inherits the question which Hopkins left in discussion and certainly Dickey will be expected to define his position before not too long. (I know very little about Dartmouth's educational standards, how the school stands up to other New England institutions; I imagine that like many others my first thought is of the Winter Carnival and good football teams.) The Swope article in interpretation of the English election was pretty fair; I think that with the exception of the extreme right in America, the distinction between democratic socialism and communism has been recognized. Has Hayek made any statements on the future of England? I cannot agree with David Lawrence's feeling that the end of lend-lease was "bad manners and bad diplomacy." To my mind it had all the elements of an excellent diplomatic move since it clearly ended the Uncle Sugar notion while leaving open the expanded facilities of our foreign trade agencies, specifically the Import-Export Bank. It was the first step in taking our foreign trade out of the atmosphere of war. There may be some justification to the argument that England should have had some warning of the cessation, though hardly a 90 day period. I do not feel that this action reflects on our readiness to cooperate and to work with other nations in international economy; true it was an unfortunate blow to England, but hardly the irreparable dislocation which Lawrence pictures. I wonder if Lawrence will be consistent when the post-war economic picture begins to clarify and we are called upon to enlarge UNRRA or a replacement organization to tide starving Europe over. Actually I am encouraged by the strong tone of international responsibility in the Lawrence article. Braden's first speech on Argentina was very promising; the Cortesi reports hold out the hope that the Peron-Farrell regime may be broken by the combination of internal and external pressures - I hope that is right. If Peron is smart he will pull a sort of "Batista" and hold free elections and thus allow himself to exit more or less gracefully; he has little to gain by the threat of armed rule except the eventuality of armed revolt. It was not surprising that Waldman swung behind Goldstein in NYC rather than join the American Labor Party in support of his old ally, O'Dwyer; Waldman's expressed fears of political unionism logically place him in the Liberal Party group that split from the ALP. The decision of Hungary to follow the Bulgarian lead in postponing elections in accordance with the Byrnes' note is indicative of the strength of the current Truman policy and of the fact that although the local Communist parties may howl, the Soviet Union is altogether willing to allow for the broadest base in these Balkan governments as possible as long as we insist on it. It is diplomacy of agreement and not of disagreement. We already have indication that more and more news coverage will be granted in the Balkans; the current picture is not too bad.

It is interesting to note the PM comments that AMG officials more or less unconsciously help to soften the Potsdam terms; in relation to the recovery of Germany I imagine that there are official elements which are not in complete accord with the decisions reached by the big three and that this affects their willingness to carry out the policies. I can speak one way or the other about the specific PM complaints but my own army experiences point to the fact that they are possibly justified. The War Department issues a policy and by the time it comes through two or three commands to us it is often diluted to ineffectiveness by local commanders with their own points of view and problems. However, in the case of Germany it seems to me that Public pressure - built up in part by cautious attitudes

like PM's - and the publicity given to the trials will forestall any wholesale or effective sabotage of the directives of the Potsdam conference. The first batch of Nazi war criminals looks like a good start. A Craig column touched on the matter of soldier gripes and I think that she hit the nail pretty well on the head. I am not kidding when I say that you can't sit down at the table or stop to talk for more than a few minutes with anyone, enlisted man or officer, but the topic turns to discharge. Everybody has his own gripe determined by his own position, but there are certain common points. The first is that no man is essential now that the war is over; the second is that anyman with four years in the Army (pre Pearl Harbor) ought to be released; the third is that no man should remain overseas longer than two years; the fourth is that the Army should not announce a policy that is not immediately effective - in other words: there are still men with 85 points and better waiting for something to happen to them - until those men are cared for there should be no lowering of points; and the fifth demand is that there be world-wide uniformity - no man with 80 points should be released until every man anywhere in the world - who has more than 85 has been released. I think that I agree on all of these points. Most of the men realize the necessity of continuing the draft and really laugh when they hear the Army's hopes for re-enlisting volunteers. From a personnel point of view: in checking certain dates for the information which Harvard wanted I got to see my form 66-1, which is the officer's personnel record. I noted that all my ratings until July of 1945 were "excellent" or the equivalent 4.6 (best is 6.0) under the new point system. However my last rating for July and up to August 18th was only 4.0 - the lowest rating I have ever received. I don't know whether Thorpe is responsible or not, I certainly deserve nothing better - the drop pretty well reflects my current attitude.

I think that the PM article on China was pretty fair; I am still waiting for some complete coverage on the Mao-Chiang conversations to be able to get a clear picture of what reforms Chiang contemplates, specifically in cracking down on the anti-democratic elements within the Koumintang and the Chinese National Army and in granting political equality to the Communists. I see that it is now the Emir Abdul Illah of Iraq who raises his voice against the opening of Palestine; it is important to note that he specifically rejected the Truman views. If Bevin announces a favorable British policy the crisis should be brought to a head. The Navy and War departments are going right ahead with the development of new weapons and some of the results are simply astounding; the new recoilless shoulder weapons like the 57mm gun will bring entirely new factors into land fighting; obviously the role of the infantry will be as radically changed as was the function of artillery by the airplane and atomic bombing. It appears that the next war will be nothing more than total destruction one way or the other; both offense and defense have reached undreamed standards in the fields of atomic and electronic mechanisms. If Leonard Bernstein is selected to play the movie role of "Tschaikowsky" there will be little doubt of his claim to the title of the most versatile figure in American music. His boost to conductor of the NY City Symphony raises him to the top ranks in that field. To get back to Germany: one of the Times clippings cites American and British experts as labeling the reduction of Germany to agrarian pursuits as unworkable and that eventually the balance of European and world economy will demand a functioning German industry. All well and good in terms of long range policy - the point of agrarianism is to break up the current German economy and political system and to give it a fresh start, redirected toward light industry. The point is that Germany must go through this dilapidation and its effects - the experts' comments which lead to the conclusion that German industry should be rebuilt now are the type of thinking which PM rightfully objects to.

I note that Aunt Ida's letter says that Juj knows Shirley well; I will be interested to see what his reaction to the news of Son's marriage was. I am glad that Uncle Lou had a pleasant and full stay during his trip to Portland; I take it from your report that he took the opportunity to be with all his old friends - when Uncle Lou returns to civilian life it will be as though he had never left Portland. Good for Irv Herman and his cousin Don, the latter didn't waste much time and I was a little surprised at the news of Irv's wife's condition. That about covers things for today; this long rambling note will help make up for some of the shorter ones.

All my Love,

Sumner

Regards to Doris