

Dear Ones,

I have spent a restful afternoon reading Conrad - the mail came, about ten letters from home, a New Year Card from Abe and Lee Benioff, a letter from Aunt Anne, and a letter from Willie. I now have a terrific backlog of letters to answer, as you can imagine.

The Times raised a very important issue in pointing out that the Pearl Harbor report was wrong in inferring that we gave an ultimatum to Tokyo and thus precipitated the war - as the Times points out, that is like saying that a man who refuses to give up his rights at the alternative of being attacked and forced to give them up precipitates the attack by his refusal. The question of the moral rightness is the question. As for the matter of Roosevelt's taking responsibility - certainly he must take it and share it with the other leaders and with the people; he knew of the eventuality of war but was unable to prepare us for its first shock. But Roosevelt is to be judged in the context of the state of mind of his times - and surely no one will deny that in his thinking, in his speeches, in his acts - from the quarantine speech in Chicago, through the Atlantic Charter and lend-lease and the atomic bomb venture, to the stab-in-the-back accusation of Italy - he demonstrated that he knew the right course. Perhaps his failure came in his inability to bring the rest of the country into line behind him. And contrary to your Labor Day sentiments, Daddy, I think that as our leadership was not strong enough to do what Pearl Harbor did for us without its tragic shock, it was strong enough to rise to the occasion and to do the job of leading magnificently: to call Roosevelt and his administration, executive and military, the architects of victory is not at all to deny the complete credit which goes to the forces of our nations which they mobilized and directed.

There were two letters in the Times on September 2 which dealt with the question of a nationally coordinated science research group that would serve to organize and help direct scientific research so that advances such as were achieved under wartime stimuli and conditions could be equalled for peace-time progress. The first writer says he is against control - although even he states that the proposals being supported are only for an element of planning and direction. The letter becomes a very strong and logical plea for free science; and the author has proposals to make: "sponsor" science, "seek out" talent, "see to it that it has a full chance to develop" - these are proposals for government policy. The second letter favors the group proposal - it calls attention to the need of organization within the field of international scientific endeavor, of world-wide benefits from the developments of universal science. In other words the second letter sees "no group of scientific supermen" - in fact although one letter favors the group and the other opposes it, they both favor the same things for science. And how often a thing like that happens over questions of interpretation - two disputants will talk for a while and will suddenly find as they elucidate their arguments that they are much closer to agreement than their first bald statements would have suggested. I have been discussing a matter relating to science, but the applicability of the arguments concerned to the field of politics is too obvious for me to point out.

One of the Cunningham articles in its own direct and unique way was an excellent plea for good administrators and leaders - he was describing some of misfits who are handling the many relief and occupation jobs in Germany. He might have been referring to the Army commands themselves. The Mallon articles continue to strike me as showing a considerable lack of common sense and fair treatment - he was the commentator whom I read or heard who said that Pearl Harbor "was the failure of the Roosevelt Government" with no mention made of the fact that the nation is as responsible for the state of mind of the government, as vice versa. As for Pegler, I am sure that you understand that I have read his endless Elliott Roosevelt series, but just have not found anything in them worth commenting on - I don't know what Pegler is going to do if and when he reaches the world of judgment day. I guess the OSS will be a topic of discussion for some time - despite all the unfavorable publicity which Donovan's agency received over its excessive use of secret classifications which gave PM and Pearson their wedges, some phases of the Strategic Services functions should go into the State Department. A good intelligence department is a national necessity - the counterpart to our FBI at home; there need be no "gestapo" danger in it. As you know a great many Harvard historians

formed part of the backbone of the OSS - men like Langer, I guess, provided the information about the various foreign countries. Bill Snower is with them now - I guess that is where his study of Swedish led him. His last letter inferred that he was about to get a new assignment so I guess that it's military aspects have ended.

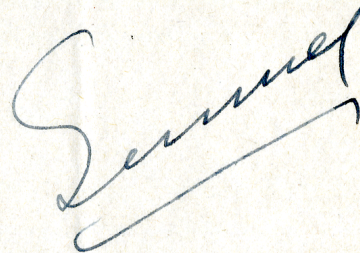
The Hoffman diatribe against columnists in the Pearson space was really humorous in a tragic way - the writer is a member of Congress and that hurts. Well, it is time to go up and shower; I will grab a bit to eat and then nothing for some 24 hours (and it will be 24 hours just about on the nose; the Army doesn't change its messing schedules for Yom Kippur - it is my impression, since we didn't even have minyan Friday night when I was the only officer there, that of the few Jewish officers remaining, I will be one of the handful who will fast.) I have a Thurber book to fill in the long period of sweating it out tomorrow afternoon. I hope that there is something to the possibility of Uncle Lou's getting out - but only from a personal point of view; if Army policy allows his release, it is a reflection of gross inequalities. I am glad that Norma Perry is with Mrs Carvel - I imagine that it is good for both of them. I hope that Richard C gets some breaks but I don't see how he can help but come overseas for at least a year's tour of duty. I wonder if Dave Sacknoff's attitude will be widespread - might just as well stay in for a while for lack of anything better?? Thanks for keeping me up to date on all the family affairs and on Uncle Lou's visit; I haven't heard from Juj in some time - they must be delivering mail by outrigger canoe between here and Samoa these days.

The news looks a little brighter - apparently a 60 day limit has been set by which time all company grade officers with 85 points or better must be at separation centers - sounds good, maybe the ball is rolling at last. Poor Don Harms has 84 - it looks as though he will have to sweat out the next batch. I am glad that HB is having the opportunity to have varying social contacts - I can't help but feel happy for her for being so far ahead of me.

I still have two bulging envelopes of clippings and a letter or two to answer before I get to the batch of mail that came in today. At least I am well stocked in case of a lull this week. I know, though, that with Thorpe gone I will feel the burden of my responsibility and will manage to keep myself busy at least during the working hours.

All my love,

Regards to Doris.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Samuel", with a long horizontal flourish underneath.