

18 September 1945

Dear Ones,

The fast was no trouble at all - my wish was answered and it rained like all get out all day long - in fact I got soaked going to and from services. Last night I saw Incendiary Blonde - pretty fair entertainment if you ignore the corny plot. I spent the whole day away from the office except for the first hour in the afternoon when I did some checking. In order that all the men at services could get back to their outfits for chow - don't get me wrong, there were only 14 of us at "Nila" and of those only 5 of us were fasting - we held the concluding service early and were done by 3 in the afternoon. Then for two hours I sat and talked with two Navy boys - one, Morton Smullovitz from Youngstown, the other, a cook named Rosenbaum from Philly, both of whom are waiting to get home after 22 months overseas; Smully is our cantor. Of course Youngstown was our first topic of conversation and then we got off onto girls - but I assure you it was entirely within the spirit of Yom Kippur!! The question was the future of Orthodoxy in the home - specifically the customs of maintaining a Kosher kitchen, and the training that the average young Jewish girl receives. All three of us come from similar backgrounds - theirs being perhaps more strict since their parents are foreign born. We all agreed that we would like to have a kosher home but none of us is seriously counting on it. If the fellows I have met here on Santo are any fair index, I feel that the strength of Judaism as a religion lies in the Conservative movement - Orthodoxy has lost its hold, but Reform Judaism seems to have little or no hold at all as Judaism; reform Judaism may have a community significance as a social-cultural group, but that is on a local basis - the tie of the Reform Jews whom I have met seems to be to their congregation and not to their religion. We got off on various tangents as to what a "good Jew" really was - and came to the sensible conclusion that a man is to be judged by his heart and his character, not his attendance - the various problems of defining what Jewishness for the individual means, in what ways it has meaning, the various ways that it has a hold on the individual, and finally (not surprising since it was close to 4:30 by then) we got to food and on that note we parted to sweat out the remaining hour or so. I ended my fast exactly 24 hours and 5 minutes after I had begun. I asked Smullovitz to look up Herb Osgood for me - I haven't heard from that part of Youngstown for some time; I dropped them an inquiring V-mail the other night. (I'm off to chow - be back later. To tell the truth I enjoy Thorpe's not being here - I have enough to do to keep me busy and that makes me feel good; the men are working well - the old timers have received word as to when they will be eligible to leave and things are looking pretty bright.)

The news today has everybody interested - MacArthur first announces that he will need not many more than 200,000 troops and lo and behold! the state department questions his estimate and its implications. The Army field commanders seem to be ready to get their needs down to a bare minimum, and they do not seem to be always in agreement with the War Department; it is clear that there must be coordination between State and War in the question of occupation forces - we shall see what develops.

I haven't come to various clippings about Wallace, his new book, and his newspaper articles, Daddy, but I get the impression that if some liberal, Wallace in particular, were to come out with a clearcut definition of standards for labor unions which would end the malpractices of labor leaders, the dangers of wildcat strikes and irresponsible labor action, without endangering the recognition of the basic rights of labor unionization, you would find yourself able to swing in behind the group whose leader is still Wallace; your distaste for the elements of the Roosevelt regime from which the current movements and situations developed would not deter your approval of our current course toward an ordered economy with minimum government planning in support of private enterprise. Certainly there would arise dispute as to what "minimum planning" might be - but the dispute would be within the framework of the recognition that there must be some planning for the general welfare and that even minimum planning has many ramifications in terms of government agencies and administrative organizations. For we grant that this minimum planning in no manner need to be contradictory to the best interests of democracy, social welfare, or the backbone of private enterprise. It all depends on that "if" of labor responsibility - and if my interpretation is correct - I know you will correct me if I am wrong - I think that we have here an entirely new basis on which to discuss our internal pictures. For surely we must work on the whole process of planning while we are working on that "if." It is my feeling that the current labor problems may see responsible liberal-labor leaders come out with the statements which



you ask for, Daddy. For I feel that it is as necessary as you say it is, even though I may be approaching the entire question of our national economy with a different starting point from you.

I may be all wet but I can't understand Wainright's being made a 4 star general or being given the Congressional Medal of Honor - what is his special claim? In looking over the last bunch of clippings I noted that Mrs Craig threw ye olde monkey wrench into Truman's smooth press conference by pointing out that the officer who failed to interpret the radar report of planes approaching Pearl Harbor has been promoted three times since December 7th. More about that when I come to it - but the idea is very strong in me that the regular Army notion that the Army exists as a separate and independent organization must be broken down - its obvious faults lie in seniority systems and the like, the old school tie nonsense. Esprit de corps is one thing, putting the Service ahead of service to the country is quite another. (At 4:30 I'll come back to this. My opinion of Colonel Pownall went back up a little when I learned that he wants to get out of the service - I don't have to tell you what our younger group thinks of those who say they will stay in.)

The mail today brought a note from Neil, a TIME, and a letter from you which was over a month old and was inexplicable delayed. I enjoyed receiving it though because there was a pre-surrender statement on discharge policy which looks very silly in the light of today's events. What a difference 45 days can make!! It is my impression that the Times pretty well has its back against the wall on the question of the Murray legislation. The arguments have been rehashed over and over again so much that if I hear the word "disclaimer" again in connection with the Bill's references to private enterprise I think I will go off into a corner and start chewing my nails! The NAM seems to be the only real stronghold against the proposed legislation. As I recall in one of your letters, Daddy, you expressed yourself in favor of the current Truman legislation program (with the labor "if" of course.) There is one point in the discussion that will come up again and again in discussion of techniques: how can you tell whether amendments are offered in a constructive cooperative spirit or in an attempt to sponsor a delaying, blocking, or nullifying action?? It is a question which obviously depends on the amendment being offered, the subject legislation, and the known record of the person offering it. When Vandenberg came back from San Francisco and offered changes in the acceptance of the Charter and its wording, his changes were received as constructive and important criticism; but when Taft who opposed Bretton Woods and who more or less symbolizes international and national intransigence.

OK - that about covers things for tonight -

All my love,

Regards to Doris

