

September 21, 1945

Dear Ones,

Well, the sun is shining again in more ways than one - with the additional news that officers' point score would be lowered to 75 at the start of October, some of the fellows, Don Harms is the closest to me, are really happy. My theory is that the faster they go, the quicker the Army will get around to me. Now to go on to your letters - by the way, it is apparent that we get mail twice a week now; it comes up from Tontouta (the airfield serving Noumea) on the weekends and down from the Canal in the midweek.

I hope that the flight of the B-29's was something more than a stunt - I imagine that it was used for technical data on long range operations - a quarter of the way around the world in a day! That's how I want to travel home! It is interesting to note that commercial interests in discussing atomic power speak in terms of giant structures to contain atomic energy plants; yet it seems to me that the size and nature of the bomb indicate that the military use employed a practical and not-too-bulky method of release of the energy. Certainly, we can look for grandiose plans and for realistic revamping of the coal and oil industries. It seems as though the deluge of letters demanding quick demobilization which descended upon Congress helped to do the trick; I was glad to hear that Marshall is willing to let post-war Army plans ride until the middle of next year - as I said the other day, I suspected that that would be one result. The end of the war killed the element of timing involved in my desire to get post-war military training legislation passed while war was still the primary issue; those of us who favor a years training period system are in for a tough fight when the programs come up for congressional action in 1946.

I am a little in the dark as to the status of the war trials in Germany - at first Jackson seemed to have everything under control, while now there are talks of independent action again. November 1st is still a long way away and certainly the current difficulties should be ironed out by then. Russian failure to respond to the speedy trial idea seems inconsistent with the speed and efficiency with which Zhukov is handling the problem of administering Germany; but I have the feeling that the Russian objection may be to method while the British are the real stumbling block as a hangover from the days of Cliveden and appeasement. It will be interesting to note the solution which is effected when the Americans who are rebuilding German administration from the bottom and the Russians who are working from the top decide to start melding; the Russian method has more outward efficiency and control, but I do not think that it is as sound as ours. The first reports out of Bulgaria would indicate that the elements of freedom of press and Politics are being re-established there and that the coming elections will be held under revised arrangements.

When you come right down to it, the British with one-third of our population have a much greater post-war military headache than do we - their areas of occupation in Europe are sizable and some British troops are in non-European areas even though the majority of the forces may be colonials. Attlee did the only thing possible by putting all the cards clearly on the table. The Labor Party is going to have a tough job weathering the rigors of transition before it can start on its limited nationalization program. I see that in his labor day speech Ickes urged Labor to clean its house - at least that was a step in the direction which you are looking for, Daddy. We shall see what recommendations come out of the Schwollenback reshuffle of the Labor Department.

I see that the Soviet press has attacked the argument that we retain the secret of atomic power to use it as a threat-insurance of peace. You know that I am against that; I feel sure that in time Russia will develop her own atomic potential - the logical things to do is to make the use of atomic destruction the responsibility of the UNO, in which all will share. For the atomic bomb to remain a method of unilateral action is to deny the entire principles of world order through agreement and cooperation. The State Department has made it quite clear that it and not the Army of Occupation will determine Japanese policy, a polite but necessary answer to General Macarthur and the implications of his statements. The handling of Japan and its leaders still mystifies me a little, but I am willing to wait for a month or so to see how deep the defeat and its effect are sinking; so far there have



been few indications that it is very deep. The talk of elections, the tone of the Japanese press, the attitudes of the new cabinet ministers gloss over the terror of defeat and talk in terms of a continuing cycle of Japanese life rather than a cessation of the old way and the start of a new. The trials in Japan may be especially important but they will be as ineffective as everything else if the glassy-eyed wall of public ignorance is not broken down and the defeat firmly impressed on every mind. This can not be repeated too often - if the Emperor is the medium for effecting this, let's use him with vigor; not let him continue as before - he must debunk himself. The Wallace article in the TIMES on planning sounds like a sane and sensible approach. I can see why you feel in all of these discussions a lack of emphasis on labor's responsibility, Daddy; you are probably right in saying that behind labor's cries for progressive policy lies a strongly defensive feeling of self-protection. And certainly there is no more uniformity among the ranks of labor in terms of recognizing the long-range overall general requirement than there is in industry. As labor ceases to be a passive element of the triangle of labor, investment, and industry it must assume responsibility as an active element. However, I don't have to tell you that I do not give this the overwhelming influence which you do, Daddy. Now to get back to Japan for a second - PM says there is a Communist element there, a democratic remnant, and a sizable remainder from the pre-1931 liberal group; Professor Peffer holds out hope that these groups can re-arise and outweigh the industrial-military-imperial cliques and classes. I hope they are right - perhaps MacArthur's policy is to let things ride until the diet meets and try to find from that the shape of things. The important thing is that even if we are waiting for Japanese signs, we cannot forget our fundamental requirements.

OK for now I may come back to this later tonight - or else I'll add a line in the morning. I just say Don and he tells me that he has been called for by Noumea - that may mean that I will be stuck with all the ammunition here too!! And I don't know a fuze from a hole in the wall. I can see where I will have to have a long talk with the colonel - they should send an officer with some technical skill up here to close the Ammunition out; in a pinch I could handle the rest, a real pinch. Most of the Ammo should be dumped anyway.

It is now September 22 - this ammunition deal has hardly cheered me up - oh, hell - it is either the supplies or the men and, as is right, the men seem to be getting the nod. Stuck is the only word for what I am.

Sam Summer