

29 September 1945

Dear Ones,

I paid a dollar for five hours of pretty fair bridge last night; I still am looking for a partner with whom I can click. Today things are going fairly smoothly - SoPac came through with a cancellation of their request for an inventory, so our great concern of yesterday on that score has passed. Probably we will get stateside orders on all of that stuff now. Today word came through cancelling TDR&R (temporary duty for rest and recuperation) which is the official name for leaves and furloughs stateside. This can only be interpreted as a prelude to the October first point score revisions. All the boys will be sweating it out over the weekend. I haven't heard a newscast for a week, it seems - suddenly the tight American and National league pennant races hold the center of interest.

Off to lunch - I'll try to get into some of your clippings afterward. I am back - the food now that we eat from the same kitchen as the men is not as fancy but it is just as good; the best idea would be to further consolidate by making the officers eat cafeteria style too. I managed to hear a bit of the noontime news which was talking about the labor disputes - what struck me was the manner or presentation of the labor arguments. Instead of stressing the idea of a wage increase, the news announcements say that the union are asking for 52 hours pay for 40 hours works, giving the impression that they are being paid for time they don't work rather than they are being paid more per hour for the work they are doing. It is an interesting news coloration.

I hope that Geneva is not selected as the site for the UNO - I think that the location should be in the Western Hemisphere. There must be any number of sites in the United States and Canada which would be suitable for the organization's needs. Travel is not the consideration it was in 1919 and the greater the distance from the likely trouble spots the better the guarantee of the most just and effective world action. I guess the fact that Geneva already has the physical set-up, though, will be a strong argument in its favor.

The questions of treatment of Japan and soldier discharges seem to predominate in the batches of clippings which I have - there is little point in commenting further on those questions, except to repeat that the great public interest is at least indication that people can think and will act when they are aroused. I think that the Truman speech to Congress covered the huge scope of national problems very well. The mail just came in - I got a post card from Art Lewis - he is stateside!! Also a note from Judy and Hank, and about a dozen envelopes from home. I have more clippings than I can possibly read! I don't think that I will get to go through them thoroughly before Xmas. I want to stay down here and finish this letter, but I don't want to be hanging around the office in case anything comes up - so I think I will go up and shower.

It is now Sunday afternoon - a week of getting up at 7 in the morning and playing bridge until midnight and later took its toll on me and I slept through the early evening, played bridge from 8 through 12, got up for breakfast but went back to bed. I got up to inventory the Headquarters Company PX, but just relaxed the rest of the morning. After dinner I came down here and I have been writing for a couple of hours, catching up on all my outside letters and just leaving some 22 (!!!) envelopes from home to be answered. I should have written to you first, but all those envelopes have me scared! What I think I will do is find the ones that have letters and answer those, leaving the clippings for later.

I am glad that you are saving my letters if only so that I can have the pleasure of reading them over in the years to come; some of them I have written with an eye to that day in the future. The Advocate articles on Truman's comments on disbanding the War Refugee Board were encouraging; there are several indications that the Zionist forces are becoming stronger and more effective in their pressure for action on the part of our government. If the "100,000 to Palestine" letter is confirmed, it will be a wonderful indication. The Zionist bulletin covered the matter very well; certainly the ZOA is right in urging coordinated and organized Jewish activity on this critical question, not helter-skelter activity which might well upset the delicate diplomatic applecart. I still don't know what the real meaning of the Bergson faction is. It looks as though the ZOA has healed its major rifts in time for the



decisions. If Attlee does respond to the American request, the move will also have significance for the Indians and all the colonial peoples of the world. Some change is bound to occur in the British Foreign Office and the Colonial Secretariat. On the Jewish scene it is interesting to note that the American Jewish Committee Reporter concentrates on problems of home-front bigotry and intolerance - Reynolds, Bilbo, and the like - and that it is very constructive in that way. But it never mentions Palestine and it speaks only in vague terms of UNO action on the question of persecution of the Jews and the UNRRA as aiding the displaced persons who do not wish to return to their original homes.

I got a kick out of the fact that in one of your letters you complain about not having written to me as often as you felt you should have - when I received that letter, I got nine others with it! I will admit that as much as I enjoy the clippings I do look for your letters. I do appreciate that you are carrying very busy schedules - and you can rest assured that I feel anything but neglected. I am glad that Uncle Lou's return will mean a big burden off your shoulders Daddy, and I do want you and Mother to take the first opportunity to take an extended rest and vacation. Please do go to Florida, Mother - you will have adequate notice if by chance I do head for stateside before the spring.

I am glad for Bob Abrams that he has been accepted into Harvard - I take it that he will start in the fall; his summer sessions at Tufts will stand him in good stead - he must be class of '49 - boy, that makes me feel like an old timer! Thanks for the G-2 (information on the latest effort to ensnare my bachelor uncle - poor Louie doesn't stand much of a chance. Aunt Etta's report probably made you feel that at last the right girl has been located; I hope so if it is what Uncle Lou wants. (I must add that I could not figure out Jeanette Caplan Kahan's relationship to us, or her marital affairs, but that is neither here nor there.) I will have to read the symposium of articles on Jewish attitudes of Jewish Youth with great care before I comment on them; as you know it is a topic in which I am interested if still indefinite as to exactly where I stand on its many questions. I will be watching for the full congressional report on the Elliott Roosevelt loan deal - exactly what the aim of the investigation is I am not exactly sure, but it certainly can do no harm to clear up the dubious features of the transactions. The Children to Palestine brochure seemed effective; I notice that the movement is allied to Youth Aliyah, through it to Hadassah and in turn to the ZOA; as I said before I would rather see its campaign come out under the banner of the overall organization (the ZoA) than on its own hook. The PM letter to subscribers should have answered some of your objections, Daddy, or at least presented a new basis for your criticism.

OK for now - it is 5:30; we have some visiting firemen in, a lieutenant and a colonel who are concerned with our personnel picture and since two of our bridge players (Bob Howes and Phil Brown) are AG officers we may not have a game tonight, in which case I will try to get down and write again. Someday when I run out of clippings to answer (ever?) I will describe our game and the players in some detail.

All my love,

Regards to Doris.

