

April 1

Dear Ones,

The mail just keeps coming in - I have letters from home up to March 21st and I have heard from Louis Epstein, Lois, Uncle Harold and Aunt Mel, and from Leverett House (the latest listing of available addresses - very fine.) I have written to Johnny Muelchi and to Jay Kay, and now I will attack the two inch stack of Bolton Street mail. The movie tonight is "When Irish Eyes are Smiling" and it should not be too bad - the rain will probably dampen audience enthusiasm, too! I have a feeling that I will end up the evening playing poker. My poor Spanish just suffers and suffers - I know what I should study - but my correspondence takes a higher priority: nothing is as important as my links with the people I know and with what is going on back home and around the world.

I apparently am on the mailing list of the American Jewish Committee - what strikes me most about their monthly report is the deemphasis of the Palestine issue. When they do touch upon it it is in general terms. I am convinced that the gap between the AJC and the various other representative Jewish groups can and must be closed by intelligent cooperation and understanding. The truly petty bickering and differences is not only discouraging, but it is constantly a destructive force working against any real achievement - we are creating a divide and rule possibility, rather reality, within our own group. More about this when I get to your other letters on the topic.

(More mail just came in carrying me up to the 24th! I am glad that Aunt Mel is well and that the child is healthy. A girl, eh - well, Daniel Thurman remains unique as the only "Thurman" among all the grandchildren. I agree that Deborah might make a nice name for Jane's sister.) I enjoy the Kendall column - sometimes, as when he describes the problem of breaking ice that means getting everything from icepicks to pokers into the effort, he strikes a familiar note of home; Pyle is routine and good - he does capture the feeling of the men he writes about in his little anecdotes and stories.

It looks as though Coolidge is really stirring Boston and Harvard up with his claim of tacit agreements with scholarship donors that awards would be limited. (From the support that is lining up behind the proposed bill it doesn't seem likely that it can be defeated in Massachusetts.) I can honestly say, for my own part, that my being Jewish at no time visibly affected my standing at school; it may have hurt me when I applied for membership in a house at the end of the Freshman year, but there is nothing sure on that. It is a difficult line to draw between discrimination and keeping a logical balance. A situation can become unbalanced to either extreme and neither is healthy - for example, it would be bad if all the Jewish students were in one House, just as bad as if one house had none at all.

I enjoyed Uncle Lou's report from Nashville - it hardly seems like 18 months since we were there. That is one example where correspondence has kept up a link of friendship. I don't think that the Army has changed Uncle very much - he is still pretty much of the enthusiast when he is feeling happy. I hope that his new CO comes through and that some of the breaks start to come his way once more. (As for his comment on my writing three pages to Juj only to close with " there really isn't anything to write about" that is a slight exaggeration - but more often than not when I sit down to write and to answer my mail I haven't got even the vaguest notion as to what I will write about or what I will say. That is why the stimulus of clippings and newsy letters is so important - they can suggest commentary or reminiscences and before you know it, you have batted out a page or so. Speaking of clippings, I wish you would cancel the Press Herald - you are so generous with the clippings in your letters and the Press Herolds arrive in such batches that I never read them carefully and I can very well do without it - if you have other reasons for my being on the mailing list, that is up to you.)

OK for this afternoon - I have to shave and shower before guard. Love,

Summary