

April 16, 1943

Dear Sumner:

The promised letter of Tuesday evening was not forthcoming for the simple reason that when I reached the Draft Board office I found myself immersed in work.

The Augusta trip on Wednesday had to do with the formation of a State War Chest to take in the nineteen national agencies having to do with the collection of moneys for the countries and people affected by the war. These include such agencies as China Relief, Greek Relief, Army and Navy Relief, etc., etc., but does not include the United Jewish Appeal, which is really a matter that will require considerable thought and study. We may be invited to join in the October campaign and before that time we must decide in each community whether to become a constituent agency. There are many factors involved, not the least of which being that the Jews give proportionately far more money per capita than the non-Jews, though the latter have ~~the~~ more money. That is well accounted for by the fact that we have historically been a charitable people, charity being one of the cornerstones of our religion. Then, too, the economic plight for the past two thousand years has forced him to take care of his own and has trained him in the habits of giving. Not so with others whose giving, in the main, is purely perfunctory. This glaring disparity in the gentle art of giving leads the ignorant to believe that all Jews are rich, as a matter of fact it is attitude and not means that determines the amount of charity. For this very purpose I am going to a conference Sunday at the Statler Hotel where Jewish representatives of several New England cities will discuss this very problem.

Our own drive is going over with amazing success. We have already reached \$53,348.00 with a quota of \$47,500.00 and the end is not yet in sight for we close Wednesday night. We ought to reach \$55,000.00. Everybody is happy and all those who participated did a smashing good job including Mother.

I suppose by this time you not only know the breech from the lock but also how to handle and fire a gun, which is a ~~whole~~ a lot more than your old man knows about it, his sum total of knowledge being limited to the spelling of the word gun. You are getting valuable experience and some day you may use that for relaxation in the wilds of Maine.

The next letter may not reach you until after the Seder. So I want at this time to urge you to be in good holiday spirit and to think of us cheerfully and gladsomely without the trickle of a tear or gulp of the throat. Our love for you is not only deep but understanding and we can enjoy each other thoroughly in spirit.

Affectionately,