

5 December

Dear Ones,

Well, things went pretty smoothly today - old man Moore got in my hair a couple of times but this afternoon the old bastard took off for thirty days in New Zealand. He has signed up to stay in the Army - that 500 or more a month he makes must look pretty good to the Okie attorney - and since Trosper is leaving around February 1st, the Colonel told Moore that he couldn't take his leave in the states but he could go to NZ for 30 days, so Moore had no choice. The big news is that a radio came in today requesting that I be put on orders to take a trip with Colonel Baudry up to Guadalcanal; Trosper is trying to stall it off by radioing SoPac that I have another ship to load - but I have a hunch that SoPac may tell them to let me take the few days off anyway. ( My stuff is all palletized and ready to move - anybody can figure out what it is and where it is - Rauth or Sprague could handle the shipment with two other non-coms.) I would certainly like to take a flight up to the Canal - it might be a pleasant change: I can see two interpretations - either I am scheduled for the Canal after this place closes or after everything but the Ammo is gone, or this is the result of my request to Beaudry and my repetition of it through Sprague to Harry Goodwin for a short vacation trip. Only time will tell - I certainly hope that I get to go... we shall see. Last night I read through a lot of your clippings after seeing the reprint of the excellent Cowboy and the Lady. It is funny - when I get just a couple of letters with a couple of clippings I find points of interest in every detail: when I receive a great many, I find how much duplication of subject matter there is ( and how much there must be in my letters) and the easiest thing is to jot down the various topics for comment. I heard from Milt Fishman ( he is thoroughly disgusted at Noumea) and from Juj ( he is going mad giving shots to everyone in Samoa.) There was only interisland mail today. Tomorrow we do no loading as far as I know and I hope to catch up on several odds and ends - including letter writing! I'll give Bob the day off - he has been going at a pretty good pace too.

I am saving aside most of the articles on current labor disputes for more complete study; the other night we heard that the Labor Management conference was a 50% success, hardly satisfactory and that Truman had stepped into the GM issue to the satisfaction of neither side. But I will try to touch on those issues later. As for the conference - I think that CIO was wrong in trying to bring in the specific wage-price issue when the conference necessarily had to limit itself to procedural machinery. As for John L Lewis he is clearly making his bid to rise to the heap of American Labor again - certainly he is Labor's most dynamic figure but not its most trustworthy one; he has defaulted too often and his leadership is uncertain. His current tack is hardly constructive or strengthening for labor, though certainly Labor unanimity might help clear the picture of the American scene. Lewis is clearly for the raise wage and price notion. The theory seems to be that if you raise prices and wages then only will you stimulate production - I cannot see committing our economy to that inflationary type of stimulus. One of the news items mentioning the the nation's realtors ( some 8 million of them) are out to break the rent ceilings - it affects as many people but I haven't heard as much discussion about it as the Union's attempt to raise wages and not prices and yet one is inflationary and expensive to the 100 million or so who are not realtors while the other is not. Oh, well...

There is a lot of discussion about Truman as the leader of the Democratic Party and the current Republican program. Truman is still in a tough spot - he is not FDR and although he has the solid background of the Roosevelt admirers, he cannot hold it through the tough decisions that lie ahead. Truman is the small-man's President. But he is no weakling - he will not bow-tow to the Southern Democrats in a showdown, I do not believe - yet he cannot align the other divergent elements of the Party into a solid mass.

The GOP is doing its best to take advantage of this - the Pearl Harbor attacks, the opposition to the Draft are both being made Party issues and the Hale attitude, if he sticks to what he said in Portland when the test comes, will not be typical if Republican action up to now in Congress is any indication. The result, it seems to me, is that Truman will find his strength in this very Republican attitude. What I am trying to get at is this: Truman has on most instances taken an unequivocal stand, he is not afraid to stick out his neck, and similarly ( unfortunately for Zionists) he does not seem wholly averse to changing his mind with equal candidness. The result is that any conscientious person knows pretty well where Truman stands and how his thinking runs on most of the issues of the day; this may help to compensate for his lack of the stature which FDR had and for the fact that he has yet to reveal himself a statesman as well as a politician. It is my belief that any strong personality in the Democratic Party could whip it into shape - but there is no such person on the horizon at present; the Democrats may be weak and they may lack unity on issues and Truman may not be wholly able to work as he would wish with Congress, but at least they are the Party with a positive program, they stand for something. The Republican effort is to paint the disaster of Pearl Harbor as a Democratic plot to get us into the war. There is a Republican effort to block the government legislation of the most basic issues - the first was Reciprocal Trade, now the matter of post war military service. And yet the Republicans are as weak as ever, they stand for nothing. Until the Republican Party can emerge with a competent head ( Stassen perhaps) who can disavow the terrifying links with the Old Guard of Taft, Pew, McCormick and what have you, they cannot deserve public confidence and I do not feel that they can win the confidence of the American majority. For one thing American partisanship has a viciousness that is a destructive force in our national life. Politics plain and simple comes above the interest of the commonwealth - the current NY cases of Steingut and O'Dwyer are clear indications of partisan politics in its worst form: the use of public means to prosecute partisan goals. We enjoy representative government - I still like to believe that its "representation" is not wholly true in its reflection of the American scene. What people so often overlook as a major factor is that the American political phenomenon must be viewed cautiously by foreign nations with more stability and stability of different types. Because of our lack of basic unity and identity of interests, we are unpredictable and in effect untrustworthy.

To my mind the Truman-Attlee-King atom decisions were very wise; it is all well and good to talk about outlawing military use of the bomb, but that is hardly the approach of the practical politician - there is a gigantic groundwork that must be laid: the sharing of and pooling of atomic researches, and allied physical matters, an exchange in full confidence of information concerning armaments and strengths and plans. This is a matter of political expediency and realism as well as idealism; and it must work. However, I must agree with the critics who insist that we enter into direct conversation with Russia on this topic - why should there be Truman Attlee conferences and notes to Moscow? Russia is the third of the Big Three and once the machinery of sharing the bomb affair was agreed to, Russia should have become a major participant in the Washington conference.

That is the one thing on which I am beginning to wonder about Truman - has he decided to underwrite the British Empire?? We are committed to world peace and justice and that is not synonymous with salvaging the bankrupt condition of the Empire system. Our stake is not in Britain per se and that must be made clear - the world cannot think and it must not be true that we are linked to Britain as against Russia. Our interest in Palestine, in Java, in India or in Germany is not to share British responsibility and to support British policy but to work on more basic world principles as a comparatively free agent ready to take responsibility in the name of general world interest. So far we have not been especially successful - we have bungled the Palestine

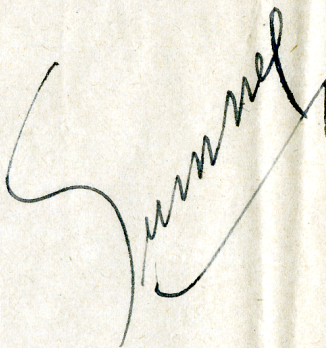
problem by agreeing to share British responsibility for the delay in decision. We should have told Britain to solve it herself, turn it over to the entire UNO, or face world judgment; and then we should have defined our stand which I thought Truman had done in his 100,000 message. The reaction of world-wide Judaism is justified - this is delay, it is a continuing renege, it is a denial of an irrefutable promise, it is inconsistent with any world standard. That the US agreed to it was a sever shock to me. We must change that type of policy - we have many opportunities for policy enunciation Java, Iran, anyplace you mention almost - it's time that we started to define our American international position. In Germany, I note that France is criticized for her tactics in delaying German unification and in her efforts to keep Germany from functioning - I am all with the French myself. We have no stake in Germany rebuilt as an industrial political power - our stake is in the destruction of those very elements and their importance in Germany's structure. Speaking of France, it seems as though De Gualle will go through many tests before he emerges with anything full confidence and a functioning legislative body - the French political temperament does not seem to have changed.. I wish the American public had a touch of that gallicism. I just noticed that we beat Brown 14-7 instead of vice-vvrsa, but I fear there was no mistake in the announcement of the Yale score.

The issue is raised that since the Japanese policy was to sponsor "puppet nationalist" movements their continuance in China and Java are suspect - the standard by which the indonesians are to be jusdged is the validity of their request, not necessarily the sourde of the notion.....

OK for now -p-

All my love,

Regards to Doris

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Samuel", written in dark ink.