

December 20, 1945

Dear Summer:

Yesterday afternoon Uncle Harold telephoned me to report that Dr. Sachs had seen Mother and that he ordered her to cover her eyes and rest completely until Saturday when he would again see her and determine whether manipulation will be necessary. He is hopeful that nature will take care of the condition; but, if not, he will proceed to do what is necessary so that Mother eye will be back to normal. Uncle Archie likes the conservative method which Dr. Sachs uses. So everything really is going according to schedule. Aunt Ann spends the morning with Mother and Aunt Sarah the afternoons. In between Harold drops in for an hour or more. Helen and I will be with her Saturday and stay over until after Christmas. Mother has a radio in her room and she is in excellent spirits as well as in excellent physical condition, as I wrote you yesterday. What messages she sends to me through Aunt Ann, to whom I telephone every morning, concerns her interest in other people. Your Mother is an amazing personality, full of kindness and concern for others. I talked to Aunt Ann this morning and her report confirms everything that I have written you up to now. The only reason I write you in detail is not because there is anything to worry about but because it is always out intention, as you so well have experienced, to keep you fully informed of conditions at home.

One of the big surprises that I think you will receive upon your return home will be the appearance of Helen Barbara, who really is growing into a beautiful and charming young lady. She is absolutely unconscious of her physical attraction and she makes light of her mental ability, which is really very high. She not only excels in her work at school but she has a sense of leadership and an intuitive sense which sometimes amazes me in so young a person. You and I are really a couple of fortunate fellows in have two such wonderful sweethearts.

The Thurmanic solicitude for all of us is very deep rooted and most extensive. As an indication of what I mean, I am enclosing a letter with enclosure which Uncle Archie sent us from Atlanta, Georgia. You will note that he definitely picks you as a candidate for a Rhodes Scholarship and recommends that you seriously entertain the idea. Far be it from me to discredit the idea. I add a hearty Amen.

The labor situation is not improving. The basic fight is whether wages should be based on profits. That, of course, raises the whole question as to the relationship of labor to management. To my way of thinking the CIO is definitely committed to a philosophy that points towards the destruction of capitalism. If the CIO means to force that approach into the economic life of our country, then we are in for a fight to the finish. On the other hand, it may well be that CIO is merely putting out a feeler and will settle for considerably less at this particular time but will regard this strike as the opening wedge for the ultimate voice of labor in management, which means in shaping the policies of industry. When I say that Labor seeks to determine wages on the basis of profit I do not mean to infer that it is willing to share in the losses; that is definitely not so, for Labor insists upon a high wage scale plus a share of the profits and if a particular employer cannot meet the high wage scale without suffering loss, then Labor would have the employer to into bankruptcy. We are in for interesting times.

You may have read by this time in your issue of last week's Time Magazine a statement which Harold Laski made and which I think deserves serious attention, for it is a forthright and honest credo of British Labor. He is, as you know, a guiding genius of the Labor Executive Committee in Great Britain. He made the statement that planned economy and free enterprise are at the opposite end of the poles and cannot be reconciled. To think otherwise, he added, is "Satanic illusion." I respect Laski for his facing the issue squarely and clearly without mincing words. Some may disagree with him but I think they are merely quibbling and trying to sugar-coat a pill that is bitter to many. You cannot have a planned economy in a free enterprise system. There are no evolutionary steps between the two. The difference is definitely revolutionary. I wish more people would realize just what the issue is and then our thinking would be clarified. It is my belief that the CIO

in this country definitely subscribes to Laski's theory and his aiming towards a planned economy in which capitalism and free enterprise have no place. We will be discussing this for many months to come.

The news today is that, beginning the first of the year, the points for officers will be reduced to 60. Uncle Louie says that you begin to count from the day you joined the ERO. If so, you already have 60 points, and my letter to Bob Hale ought to receive a favorable reaction. I am eagerly waiting for his reply to my letter requesting your release. I did not mention in that letter that if you stay in much longer you will lose a whole year because you will first have to finish your last semester and by that time I do not believe the Law School will admit you for you will be in the middle of its year, whereas if you were to get back in time to enter the last half of the 1945-46 college year at Harvard you will be able to go into the Law School in the Fall. That phase I will point out when he comes here for the Christmas recess. I hope he returns before I leave Saturday for Boston.

Congress has just presented the GI with a Christmas present by enlarging the benefits of the Bill of Rights. A single fellow will receive \$65.00 a month while pursuing his educational program. The age limit has been removed. None of the benefits under the Bill will be deducted from any future bonus. Moreover, loans on homes, farms and business have been increased to 50% of the loan up to a maximum of \$4000.00. Undoubtedly the President will sign the Bill.

Both branches of Congress have passed a very favorable resolution on Palestine urging free immigration, unrestricted purchase of land, and the establishment of a Jewish homeland in a free Commonwealth. Note the phrasing of that resolution as you will receive it in the clippings.

Uncle Louie is fine and is in the throes of immediate marriage. The date has been set for Sunday, January 27th. By that time Mother will be fully recovered and together with Helen we will participate in that most happy event.

Affectionately,