

December 21, 1945

Dear Summer:

Just talked with Aunt Ann and since this is Friday and Dr. Sachs is not to see Mother until tomorrow morning, there is nothing to add about Mother's condition except that Aunt Ann says she is feeling physically fit and mentally alert.

Despite the fact that we have told all our friends not to send her any flowers - that is Mother's express wish, flowers are beginning to arrive. I wish that our friends would respect Mother's wishes and my desires and send her some fine imported cigars instead of the flowers. Tomorrow morning Helen and I are leaving for Boston and we will go first to Uncle Harold's office and then to the hospital to see Mother. Helen will stay for the entire Christmas recess with Aunt Ann and I will stay over until Wednesday. Naturally I will write you every day from Boston.

With the clippings I am sending you a few Christmas cards that you have been receiving. I am sure you will want them for purpose of acknowledgment and I would rather you have them in the original mailing. Also I am enclosing a clipping from the Bath newspaper which reported my talk to the Scouts there on the 13th. I thought I had done a poor job but the way the paper wrote it up it would appear that I was a bit gloomy. The scene was the High School auditorium and the audience consisted mostly of the Scouts. I could not warm up very well because the hall was dimmed and I was speaking from a lighted stage. You cannot very well give of your best when you are looking out into the dark and the footlights glaring into your eyes. If you can see the audience and talk to them you instinctively react to what you sense is in their thoughts and minds as you look into their faces. But when you are talking out into the dark the situation is entirely different and you find yourself at a loss to emote as well as orate. Oh, well, if Bath was satisfied, then I should be.

The news this morning is that President Truman wants his fact-finding Boards to be given the right to look at the books of the employers. I subscribe to that, provided the records are not made public or available to labor but are used only for the exclusive and confidential benefit of the persons composing the Board. The Government has access to these records through the Treasury Department and there is no reason why other Government officials cannot have access to the same records, as long as the information therein contained is kept secret. Also such Boards must be careful not to impose their judgment upon the judgment of management. When you have men of the highest integrity forming such Boards there is little danger, it seems to me, of such a transposition of policy control. I do, however, feel definitely that profits have a relation to wages; and to my way of thinking the relation must be used both for upward trends as well as downward trends in the wage structure. These Boards should also have the corresponding right of examining the records of labor.

I may continue later along this line, but right at this moment I must stop because a client has just come in and I am sure you will agree with me that in the office clients must be given priority.

'Till later in the day then, or tomorrow morning.

Affectionately,

P. S.

Aunt Ann just telephoned me that Dr. Sachs has just seen Mother and saw a decided improvement and thinks that it may be possible that nature will take care of the job without any manipulation. That's great news and I am in high spirits.