

January 14, 1944

Dear Sumner:

As soon as I have a free moment I am going to write you the type of letter that I like to write to you, that is, reflective and discursive. For the moment, however, I must confine myself just to a short breezy word.

Mrs. Osgood's letter to Mother warmed the cockles of our hearts, first, because she said so many nice things about you and, second, because, though true and known to us all the time, she took time out to convey her impressions. I could, if I were so disposed, spike your guns at the Osgood menage by telling them that I am Bernie and that you are only Sumnerel. Boy, would that announcement pull you down several pegs. But I am not going to do that. After all, why shouldn't my son bask in the reflected name of his father? (Now no wise cracks, young man).

I was very much interested in your story about the officer who refused to take the assignment you had given him. Was not that some form of insubordination? Or was that just being ornery? How did you handle the situation?

Sunday I shall be in Boston on a New England Conference on Scouting. We are out for one thousand more units "Troops or Packs" and our slogan is, "A Thousand More in '44!" The quota for Maine is 98, of which Pine Tree is to furnish 60, and I am State Chairman, if that means anything except just more work. But I enjoy the labors because to me Scouting ranks only after the home, school, and church in molding the character of the boy. Scouting is almost a sure guarantee against juvenile delinquency and is definitely an antidote against anti-semitism. If the Boy Scouts of America had enough money with which to engage professional service (The Scout executives and field executives) so that we could take in all the boys who want to be Scouts and train them in the Scouting program, the future generation would have little stomach for such hate breeding movements as anti-semitism. For sixteen years now I have been in Scouting and I have not yet lost my first enthusiasm. When you have nothing else to do check up with those with whom you come in contact, officers and enlisted personnel, and find out how many were Scouts and what they got out of Scouting. The answers, I feel sure, would be revealing.

Not much more for the moment. We are all in good health, thank God, and Grandpa is mentally ready to go to New York to live with Aunt Ida, though the wrench will unquestionably be severe at the start, but time will taper off the hurt and, I hope, soon he will be happy in his new environment.

Affectionately,