

June 30

Dear Ones -

I sent a birthday cable off to you today, Helen Babsy; I hope it got to you by the Fourth. The mail brought two letters from boys who are out here in the islands with me; I have answered them. I typed the Thurman Grandparents a long letter this morning. Got a card from "Readers Digest" - hope you have written them that I am now at 708. Thanks for the review of Laski's new book and the Willkie articles. It would have been a brilliant stroke for Willkie to have written the official platform for the Republicans with Dewey's candidacy and nomination so obvious. Now the Republicans have to sell a sphinx to the American people. It is unfortunately true - but to my mind the only way the Republicans can win the election is to argue against Roosevelt, rather than for Dewey - there is an important distinction there. Unless Dewey comes out with definite commitments and strong statements (which seems an impossible condition right now) that is, presents a positive picture, it would be a mistake to trust him, at this time. I will continue to comment as the campaign progresses. Getting back to Laski for a second, that reviewer of the Times was extremely unfair - he revealed that he does not know the history of Russia since the world war; it is the same discussion I have often had with you, Daddy; I am no communist, but to classify the Russian experiment with construction with the Fascist method for destruction shows a shallow appreciation of the facts. To deny the greatness of the communist achievement is no more than blindness to the obvious.

Mail is still coming thru from 7769. So the last of the Sets of Law has gone to a happy(?) recipient! That is one subject that will always be good for a family laugh. Well, the closet is all built and the inside surfaces are painted. My hands are splotted with white paint as a result. We are now involved in building an indoor washstand with outdoor drainage so that we can wash inside. How do like that? What a life!!

Nothing special to report. You probably read in TIME about the value of liquor and souvenirs from this theatre. It seems funny that the magazines can mention places, while we can't. The reason is that the army rightly cannot allow the association of the Apo with a specific spot. This is obviously required by security needs. On the whole, censorship is very reasonable. I know most of the censors around here - they are a good bunch of boys - but I don't envy them: I'd hate to read other peoples' mail all day long. I'll add a line in the morning.

July 1

I ate supper last night with the censors and was informed that I can tell you that I was at New Caledonia, before coming here. I imagine that you had guessed that by now. Went to the movie last night: "Born to Sing" - it was a hodge podge of good and bad, but the finale (which was out of place) was the "Ballad for Americans" and it was superbly done.

Let me describe to you how the construction team of Schreiber and Bernstein works: we have a box about 2 ft. by 1 1/2. Herb decides to cut it



down for a fancier wastebasket. I lie on my bed as he gets a pencil and ruler and starts to draw angular lines and measure here and there - all the time apparently in deep thought. I offer the suggestion that if we just paint the sections he wants to cut out white we would accomplish the same affect. I chuckle, he scowls. Finally he starts to saw; I try to point out, helpfully, of course, that he is going to have to do much sawing that it would be just as easy to start from scratch. He ignores me with ~~m~~majestic silence. I continue to comment on the advisability~~xxx~~ of cutting off corners, everything I can think of. Finally - he turns to me grinning as if to say you poor fool, and asks me whether I would like to do the sawing. That always shuts me up and another little architectural conference is history.

Well that's it for now - I am reading Bemelman's Hotel Splendide - very light stuff and very good.

Love,

*Sammy*