

July 2nd

Dear Ones -

A drizzly Sunday; bad for morale. It's when you're not busy, your free time on the weekends and after work each day, that you tend to get moody. That is why it is so important to be reading something, or to be doing something like redecorating the tent, to keep busy. I am now reading HG Wells's 'Tono-Bungay.' I am playing some chess and trying to drum up a bridge game. Last night I saw Bob Hope in 'My Favorite Blonde' - Madeleine Carroll is really nice - the picture is a scream; tonight it's Betty Grable in 'Pin Up Girl.' (Incidentally it seems to me that Miss Gable and Mr. James had their first child pretty early in their marriage - you know the old story: the first baby can come any time, the second one always takes nine months!!) Anyway, here I am in the Office - killing the morning. Not much special. Just dropped a note to Willie Stein.

The mail brought that Italian Manifesto and two letters from home yesterday. I thought the Manifesto well written and its criticism very justified. ~~But~~ I know Salvemini and La Piana personally - I can remember the long and brilliant discussions Salvemini ~~used~~ used to have at the Harvard Post War Problems meetings; and La Piana's discussions of Fascist Italy in his class on Medieval Europe. In analysis they always reduced the issues down to basic considerations; and no matter how necessary this clarity in thought is, it often ignores the immediate political problems of practical necessity. They were right when they say we missed the boat in not ~~in~~ jumping in when Mussolini quit, in not disposing with the petty fascist monarch and his crew. But we were unprepared, we were new, and above all we were dominated by military requirements. As a result we piddled around, fearing political chaos if we effected an overall change; it was impossible to maintain military rule completely. And we did not control all of Italy - we still have less than half of the country. No final solution now is possible. I think we have learned: the combined experiences in North Africa and Naples, with the French and Italians, has taught us. We need criticisms like the Manifesto to remind us of our promise and our failure. I would like to see Willkie in the State Department of the next cabinet.

The mail just came. Letters from Judy, Aunts Ida and Anne, Dot Fried, and home. Now getting back to yesterday's mail: I was not surprised to read that White thinks that "Republicans in Maine are not for the P A C." Few Republicans are. Did all the Republican Congressional incumbents get renominated? Glad the cottage is all settled; give my best to the clan. I got your long letter, Helen Babsy. I do appreciate the complete reports: no, I don't sing 'a leetle beet of potato cheep etc.' any more!!

Please thank the family members who write to me - I try to answer each letter at least with V-mail. Now on to the mail I just got up from New Caledonia. I got HB's pictures - very swell. Good for Dave Sacknoff. Yes, Mother Dear, I do feel the warmth in your typewritten letters - in fact, the last one came slightly scorched!! Thanks for Terry. I finally got your letter of the 15th Daddy. You already know that I was in New Cal, that I am now in New Hebrides. That there is



plenty of liquor and beer here. I might add, and that so far I have had one drink and 3 bottles of beer in 3 weeks here. What an old soak?! Of course, I understand the "spirit" of your comments and suggestions.

As for your concern over centralization - one of these nights I will sit down and expound my theory of government as it is evolving. That is it for now.

Love,

