

July 8, 1944

Dear Ones,

Yesterday's mail brought your letter of the 27th, Daddy; always be sure you put my complete address on the envelope - i.e., Hq SvCom ^{ORO} ^{APO} 708 - otherwise it holds up the delivery. Your analysis of Willkie is very sound - ^{politician} I do not agree with your overtone that to be a consummate like FDR is bad; it's just necessary practical politics, not the basis on which to judge him. Anyway, back to Willkie: I do not see how Willkie can support Dewey in any conscience, Dewey who hesitates to commit himself to a definitive policy of friendship with Russia. Willkie occupies a distinct and important position for the simple reason that millions of people like us do look up to his leadership. At the present time Dewey and Willkie do not agree - I do not think Willkie will renege on himself and swing to Dewey as is; if he does he forfeits your support. Willkie must bring Dewey into the open; Dewey must be definite, he must promise, in other words he must come to Willkie's camp. If he doesn't the logical thing is for Willkie to come out against him. If Dewey were to be elected without further ^{AND COMPLETE} clarification, as he stands now, it would be a national catastrophe.

Saw a good movie last night, one of the best war pictures I've ever seen. Charles Laughton in "This Land is Mine." The acting was brilliant, the story effective. I am now reading Marcel Proust's "Remembrance of Things Past." It will take me some time to read the seven novels in the two volumes.

Herb and I had a long talk last night; it started when he let off a little steam about the fact that most of the work on the hut was his and that he felt I was showing indifference, although he admitted that as a carpenter I'd make a good opera singer. He is right, ^{IN A WAY} and as a result I will probably be shamed into doing a greater share of the finishing up job - I don't want him to mistake my lack of participation for a lack of interest again. (Our discussion took on a personal touch later on in relation to our Jewishness, our backgrounds, our own evolution; this will be a topic for one of my later letters.)

I got a sweet note from Beah Osgood. I think I will write Dave Owen over the weekend; haven't heard from JK or Eli lately. Tom Farmer never did get in touch with me as he promised he would when we met in Chicago. OK for now - I'll mail this at noon.

Nothing special

*Love -
Sumner*