

April 3rd

Dear Ones,

This letter should reach home about the 14th so this note brings my special greetings, Mother. (It is getting rather clichéd to say that birthdays are just reminders because my special thoughts and wishes are with you always, Mother, but it is nonetheless true.) Well, I hope that next year at this time, the possibility of our reunion will be something in the near future - at any rate, we are always together in thought.

I moved yesterday; Abe Benioff got on the boat for the states and I went in with Art. It is a good tent; it had a white ceiling and it is all fixed up - I have a hot locker, a sealed cabinet with an electric light to keep the clothes dry and warm. The tent is right near the club and in the center of the area. I also got around to some of my Spanish yesterday - we are having a sort of review quiz tonight and that was the push I needed to open the book while I was lying on the sack. Last night I wrote to Uncle Lou and to Juj - and I did something I haven't done for a long time, I carboned the letter since I knew I was going to describe the Pesach services to them both - it was substantially what I wrote to you, in fact I used a carbon of the letter I wrote to you as my notes!! Very complicated, but I think you get what I mean. Now to get on to some of your mail (incidentally, Art has a radio so I have mine down here in the office and am typing this to the strains of "Sunrise Serenade" - nothing but the best in working conditions for us!)

As you say in your letter of the 16th, Daddy, I am beginning to return to the original idea of going to school for one semester before trying law school - the advantages and requirements of readjustment cannot be overlooked. Needless to say, I will keep whatever contacts I have throughout the school to keep my finger on the pulse of what is going on. In this vein, Neil wrote (in answer to my comment on the problem of readjustment and change) that he feels that his years in the army ^{being spent in} are merely fighting off retrogressions rather than gaining any new abilities or maturity. I think I will answer him that I think he is overlooking a great deal of his army experience - certainly as I look back over the two years now behind me, I know that I have learned a lot, that I have gained many new viewpoints, in all, that I have got a better balance than I might have had without this experience.

Again, I come to a comment on my marriage (!) You know how I feel on this subject and the discussion of it pretty well by now - it is pretty well exhausted as a topic of conversation, since it is still so very academic. I think that the editorial on the military training program was damn good - it was well written and it packed a punch - what sort of letters to the editor did it inspire? You know how important I feel that the enactment of such legislation is at this time. I am glad the City came in behind the Maine Jewish committee; it is promising that cooperations and concerted action can be achieved with the proper leadership and understanding. I am sorry that the Scolnick case got tangled up in the legal problems of trial (should I say "trial and error") it seems that the result will be gain for no one. If sometime you feel in the mood or feel that you care to write to me, ^{about it} I wish you would write me the history of the Bermans and specifically the relation of Jack to the community and his standing in the community as a whole - at present I have only piecemeal impressions

We have heard news of two events - the continuation of the coal miners agreements for one month following the vote of confidence for Lewis and an agreement between Murray, Green, and Johnston concerning a plan for labor-management agreement. I am awaiting your clippings and comments on the plans. (By the way, Johnston certainly looks like a potential Willkie to me - I may be wrong.) I think that labor made a mistake in not

coming out for a work or fight bill, instead playing for a less severe national service work bill. Not only would it have strengthened the role of the union, but it would have given labor a big boost as psychological factor as standing solidly behind the war effort. It is to my mind one of the many errors which organized labor has made because of its defensive position; it is similar to the policy of striking under certain conditions under wartime stress, at a time when although they may be dead right legally, morally, or what have you, the union creates ill will by leaving its men idle while soldiers fight. And I believe that a good share of the trouble lies in the failure of a coordinated governmental manpower agency - one organization within the administrative set-up to handle labor disputes, manpower priority and regulation, the many policies which are now under divided authority, an organization which has the authority of Congress behind it and the respect and confidence of labor and management. However, in none of these failures is there reason to blaspheme labor, government, or management - this phase of our governmental role and responsibility is still very much in the stages of formation and of recognition and with the added problems of war the resultant conditions are entirely understandable. And everyday we have new indications that we are becoming aware of the basic nature of our problem and how to deal with it. When we can more fully concentrate on the mechanics of government, we will have the groundwork of past achievement and past mistakes for the creation of new general policy.

I get a kick out of your reports on the campaign - everything seems to be loaded with dynamite in this community venture. And there you are in the middle between the temperamental prima donnas. I think that you are right - the complications involved in giving George Lewis the job do not come close to balancing what contribution he might make. I am glad that you are taking the trip to NY and I hope that you enjoy its relaxation and rest and respite from the campaign and everything else to the full. I do appreciate the detail with which you describe the community affairs at home - I am probably more up to date than 90% of the people at home. (I am not commenting on any of the clippings in these various letters - so I may touch on some of the same topics again when I get to the clippings.)

It is hard to realize that the baseball season is starting at home in a couple of weeks! We are still having weather predominated by rain - ok for this noon -

All my love,

Regards to Doris.

Semmes