

I got a kick out of your refering to the Saturday Evening Post as STEP - Mother; at first I thought you were talking about some new magazine! It is sometimes refered to as SATEVE-POST, but your abbreviation is better yet! ("s I read the first page over, I realize that this is a pretty sad letter - the first part reads like an interoffice memorandum and the second shows that a little more sleep might stand me in good stead but - well, I depend on your indulgence. Remember when I went to Brooklyn for Xmas vacation and used to write to you late at night? When I came home you told me how shocked you were at my misspellings and myriad other mistakes? )

The report on Mrs Bond's talk was OK - I am glad that the presentation of a gift to Margaret and the meeting went off all right; I just hope that the gift turns out to be a committee project and not just out of the pocketbook of Mrs IB. Maybe little things like that can help to smooth over the rough spots that pop up in community organization. You certainly went to enough effort for it. (Far be it from me to upbraid Davey Sacknoff for getting fat - if he has a job like mine in conditions like these it is easy to understand how a natural tendency like that is encouraged.)

I am happy that your NY trip was pleasant, Daddy; it was good to get your encouraging first-hand report on Grandpa. For his health and well-being and for our ability to care for him we have a great deal to be thankful. The news of Sonny's consideration of a second tour of duty overseas came as a complete surprise to me: he hasn't written to me for, I should say, some four months now. As for your analysis of him ( I will comment later on your discussion of secrecy at Yalta ) I think that you are infering something that is not there in labeling him with a "Russian leaning" as though that were a bad thing. I imagine that by your standards I have a Russian leaning too, so I probably not an impartial judge in this matter. Needless to say, his study of Russian can be an indication of more than mere intellectual curiosity; but per se there is nothing wrong with Lou's desire to learn as much as he can about Europe and about the Soviet Union. Personally I would not have the wanderlust for information which seems to be guiding his present plans - as for the danger angle, I take it that he wants to be in the Army of Occupation and since he will still be in the service anyway at that time I can see the logic of his plans. One thing is clear: Lou's standards are not ordinary and he may well be on the only track that he can work constructively.

I was also in the dark as to the serious of Ruthie's friendship - she has written to me often and openly but the chap she refered to has hardly had time to be on active service and win a Navy Cross; must be somebody else. ( Ruth hasn't written for quite a while, by the way.) Her pictures would indicate that she is really a charmer and her letters are well written, full of life, and interesting.

That sort of covers things for this afternoon - I just got your V-mail of April 1, Toots. I definitely enjoy your picturesque reporting. OK for now -

All my love,

Regards to Doris.

