

April 19th

Dear Ones,

I have just come back from Spanish and this is a good chance to catch up on my mail; I have gone back to the relaxation of noontime naps for the present. Major Thorpe and I had a talk today and in it he gave his evaluation of me which, from his point of view, is not too bad - he acknowledges that I am able and can hold down the office, but that my youth has its disadvantages in the question of making decisions, since, as he puts it, I tend to be "flighty." The criticism is well taken in its impression, but I do not think that my age is the reason for my "flightiness" which might more aptly be labeled "lack of concentration." It is the result of the factors of my lack of a basic interest in the mechanical, maintenance, supply, and command questions which pass through my hands - in sheer judgment I do not think that I stack up too badly with the run of the mill officer around here; it is simply that the stuff of which my job consists does not hold my whole-hearted interest. But we have gone into all that before - Thorpe may be a little unpolished but nobody pulls the wool over his eyes. Well, I thought you might be interested in that little tid-bit.

The news of Ernie Pyle came through this morning - the footsoldiers have lost their best champion; he certainly captured the spirit of a letter home in his columns. The mail today was good - I must have got six envelopes from the office with clippings concerning the ZOA and the various Executive and Policy committees; I am going to have to sit down and get all the organizations straightened up and find out what the discussion is about now. I also got the Alumni Bulletin and the BB Monthly. I will try to comment later on the discussion in the AB about the problem of selection in higher education and specifically how it refers to the GI Bill. Also in the mail was a letter from Juj - nothing special, a chatty note - and a letter from Carl Kilpatrick - he is at APO 448, in the 87th Division. Carl has seen Metz, the Saar, the Bulge, Luxembourg, and through the Siegfried Line to Coblenz. He says that Herm Schwartz is out here somewhere and he told me to look up an ensign named Ingalls on this island; this fellow was his roommate at UofM and comes from Bar Harbor - the kick is that this guy Ingalls is in Navy Ordnance and I have dealings with him everyday of the week!! I'll have to call him tomorrow and tell him of my discovery of a mutual friend. A while back I promised to describe to you our volleyball game, which is often more of a clash of personalities than volleyball skill - I haven't forgotten and I'll try to think of it someday when I am stuck for something to write about. I have received your letters mailed through Tuesday the 10th now.

Daddy, I think I'll stick to the five card games myself - having dropped the sizable sum of some 15 smackers in two successive nights; the rub is that in a small limit game we have to substitute the risk of more cards for the risk of real gambling. I am looking forward to getting into a game where gambling skill rather than card holding luck will decide the ledger for the evening's entertainment - that is the only real test, and I fear that a streak of Thurman balances my Bernstein like for cards just enough to temper my gambling tastes. We shall see. The only time I have heard Cunningham speak was at a Bowdoin banquet but I don't recall even the vaguest features of his part in evening since that was the night Jack Magee talked about his trip with the Olympic Teams to the Orient and his experiences with the "Japonee"!! I can recall that your favorite word for his column, Daddy, used to be "drivel." I guess it still applies in the main - I can not see his claim to fame (or \$500 a week.) As for Brewster, the man is a politician of the first rank of opportunists, apparently, but I think that he has handled his Senate role with considerable judgment, at least he is not a non-entity. It is regrettable that his record makes him undeserving of full confidence. I will save your comments on Labor until I hit the clippings which are accumulating again on that topic - one thing is clear to me: the argument over the Wallace policy is degenerating into the point where we are merely quibbling - my original argument concerned the immediate nature of the first Wallace speeches upon his nomination and their scope. It was not my intention to underestimate the importance of the role of labor and labor's relation with the other organized forces of our society - it is not my intention to deny a primary position in national

importance, in national interest, for national consideration, to the role of labor organized or otherwise. I was merely pointing out that the Wallace speech was primarily concerned with the basic interpretation of the meaning of a democratic-capitalistic system in the fundamental phases ~~of the investment of capital~~ of the investment of capital, the encouragement of risk, to encourage full employment and full production purely from the point of view of social welfare in terms of national income, that he was not delving into the associated problems, which (and no one is denying this) certainly affect questions of basic social and economic considerations, like labor, like control of the stock market, ~~or what have you.~~ Anyway, I think we can end this discussion right here and now, since it is growing irrelevant - I think that my main point remains untouched; that you are criticising Wallace for nothing more than omission instead of discussing for their own value the questions which he presented. My point is that we can now drop Wallace's speeches and go on to look at the national picture - the role of production, the issues of labor, the guaranteed wage, etc, which is what we both want to do, I'm sure, without the argumentation of the specific approach which Wallace took. Agreed?

OK, I'll let the labor picture go for tonight and get on with your letter describing the speech of Maurice Hindus. I note that your only comment is that you disagree only with his commentary on the necessity of infantry to defeat the vastness of Russia - and I take it that that means that you agree with the rest of what you reported. I am glad of that. From your report it is clear that he manage to give a relatively well balanced picture of the Russian scene with his examples of current political opinion and maturity, of the status of love and religion, of the combination of the communist experiment not with a world approach but with Russian nationalism. I am glad that you saw the fairness of his statement that Russia is still formative - I hope that the significance of this fact will become assimilated into your standards of judgment of Russian method; it is a point which I have felt you tended to omit in your comparisons of the German Fascism and the Russian Communist experiment. In fact I hope that all of the Portland audience gained something from the fact and spirit of the Hindus lecture. I did enjoy your very complete review of what he had to say, Daddy. I don't have to tell you that this sentence struck a familiar and affirmative note with me: " In the ideology of communism there can be no such philosophy as the superiority of one race over another and any country that adopts that philosophy is a menace to the world. Russia does not intend to let any people adopt fascism if it is so minded; it tends to uproot it wherever it exists." I don't think that that should be limited to an ideology of communism.

I will enclose Margaret's letter in this note, Mother. Thanks for the clipping on George McCallum - don't you remember that he lived on Bolton Street next to the Pinansky's? he has a brother Bill and they used to have a beautiful spaniel dog. The girl looks familiar but I don't think I know her. I hope that Portland does take some action on the Bowker Bill - is there enough public interest to push the Bill to the fore? Payson certainly takes a negative attitude ~~but~~ ^{EVEN THOUGH} he admits that inertia is our biggest hurdle keeping us from more progressive government.

That sort of covers things now - I have the radio on now, listening to Dinah Shore singing about Saturday night - no doubt about it, it is the loneliest night in the week. I'll write to Bob Stuart before going to sleep.

All my love,



Regards to Doris