

April 26

Dear Ones,

Today has been routine - dull, and the weather was overcast to boot. Spanish was ok - I am running into a little of my old trouble there: I don't think that my personal approach to education is very democratic! I am annoyed by "eager" students who rush forward with their little bits of ground out knowledge, who learn the stuff set before them, but who by their questions and their blank looks reveal that they do not really grasp it. Herefor when one of them launches into me it gets my dander up a little, and unprepared I try to meet their challenge on quibbling little points - I generally lose since my argument is with their approach to study and their general treatment of the lessons not with the specific points. This sort of ties in with my letter in which I sung the blues - I miss the stimulating atmosphere I am used to; that is why I am glad Herb Schreiber is back - despite his many faults and the characteristics which I do not like - he is intelligent and he is provocative, though he may lack some of the sensitiveness which so characterized Joe Thompson.

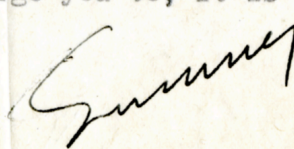
I spoke to Hal Stein today and I guess he will be down tomorrow evening. The mail today was good - the blank spots were filled in and the letters carried through the 18th. I also heard from Ruthie (whom I have just answered) and from Betty Freedman. The April AJC "Reporter" arrived: it strikes me as simply startling that in the discussion of homelessness and migration Palestine is not even mentioned! Does the AJC have any strength in New England?

I cannot understand the David Lawrence comment on the Johnston-Green-Murray announcement - Mr Lawrence seems terribly upset that the NAM does not agree and fears that a controversy over the position of American management may result. He probes around and finds in the most innocuous statements the threat to freedom of action and everything else imaginable. I can think of nothing more healthy than a good rousing national analysis of the position of management and its relation to the closed shop, the Wagner act, or what have you. And why Lawrence should be afraid of the consequences of this first statement is beyond me - does he fear the prospect of industrial peace, or does he just think that it is not possible that current disagreements are indications of inevitable splits? In the face of an admittedly non-committal statement, in reading of the first steps of labor and management to get together, Lawrence finds cause to tear his hair out in despair - it is difficult for me to find justification for his approach from any constructive, American point of view.

I am pretty tired tonight and so I will put off the serious discussion suggested by your letters and clippings until the more relaxing and free weekend. The picture of Barbara Webster was certainly a good one - I always enjoyed her company; we four of the debating club were a rather strange group - strange for Portland, anyway; socially healthy, though. The library here has closed and most of my books come from what the other officers and men have collected. OK on your decision on the Press Herald - just let the current subscription expire (I hope you will excuse my unconventional hyphenating!) I am glad that you have made the decision to take the campaign in stride from here on - I'd rather have your decided the critical question of whether the tea should be served with lemon or not, than wearing yourself to a frazzle in the pressure of getting contributions. I am glad that you had one of your old-fashioned sessions with Uncle Harold, Mother - how late into the night did you talk? I take it that downstairs in back in line with upstairs now and everybody is happier that the air has been cleared by the current discussions - you know what I mean. Good for Teddy Perry - I am glad that Uncle Don's Florida venture is working out well. I will comment on Aunt Etts's letter in a later note. I will probably finish "Valley of Decision" tonight - if you have not read it, I urge you to; it is almost an American "Forsyte Saga."

OK for tonight -

All my Love,



Regards to Boris