

April 28th

Dear Ones,

I did not write last night; Hal came over for supper and neither of us felt much like going to services, so we saw "Up in Arms" - the second time for me, but still a hilarious show. Hal does know Jerry Weinstein - it seems that one of his older brothers and Jerry were very close. The weather continues to be overcast and cheerless. The mail yesterday brought letters from you, an Alumni Bulletin, a flock of papers from February and March (!) and letters from Willie, Dot, and Lois - as for the last three, this would be the ideal time to break out in a carbon copy system of correspondence, but I don't think I will! I also got a note from Juj - nothing special. In the Alumni Bulletin of February 3rd there is a picture of a meeting of the H-Y-P club of the Russell Islands and in it is Rothney, my former tentmate - I wonder if you happened to notice it. The picture of you in the Center Bulletin is the one I am not keen on, Mother, although it is not too bad.

I can't get over the letter of Aunt Etta's which you sent to me - I can imagine what the comments of Aunt Ida's clan would be to it: the contrast between Aunt Etta's life in Rochester and that in Brooklyn must certainly be striking. I can't quite tell whether she is just expressing her love for the Morrisises or trying to sell the rest of the family on them - probably a combination of both. For her letter is sheer adoration and joy, nothing more or less. Thank God that Aunt Etta does find such happiness with the Morrisises and that they are able to represent perfect harmony to her. But - perhaps I am just too suspicious a soul - there is a hollow ring to the picture she paints of the Elysian fields transferred to New Haven. There is never the slightest hint of any things being wrong or unpleasant; I am in no position to judge - I hardly know the Morrisises as individuals let alone their family relationships and the like. I just wonder what your reactions were to the letter - it is certainly Aunt Etta through and through. Thanks also for Uncle Lou's letter - neither he nor Juj really minded by sending them the same letter. I'll come back to this after lunch on the other machine - this one has gone to the dogs.

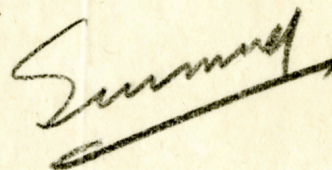
Let's see - the news would indicate that so far San Francisco is rolling along smoothly; though of course we have received nothing but the most general statements. I think that the measures of revision which have been urged to the Dumbarton Oaks agreement will come about to a large extent - although the major nations will not give up their "veto" powers at this stage of the game. The move to get a working plan to keep all treaties open and avoid secret commitments is a worthy one.

I think I wrote to you that I did not agree with the proponents of Parochial education on a large scale in this country; you know that I regard religion as basically a matter of personal evolution and thinking and therefore I tend to regard it as a consideration primarily for the home that should not create any serious conflict with the general social scheme in which we live. The prospect of education in religious channels - as Clarice Shur pictures Montreal - does not appeal to me whatsoever.

I just got eight more letters from home! Mail service really picked up with a sudden bang! When I will get to read them, let alone answer them is beyond me. I doubt whether tomorrow will be much different from any other day for me - I hope to be able to get off for a few hours and eat lunch at Hal's place, but I cannot count on it. I do plan to devote tonight to letter writing. As for the Hick's article on Max Lerner: I am glad that you wrote to me critically and at length Daddy, because I can sense a change in your approach - I wish I had saved your letters, but I can recall when your criticism was that FM was not a newspaper and hence you read it begrudgingly and with a prejudice against it. Now I think that you are ready to criticize FM, not on the basis of whether or not it is objective, but on the basis of whether its slant, the side that it takes, and its editorializing are justified. ^{AN ARGUMENT} Nobody has ever seriously claimed objectivity for FM, and for that reason you must judge what it says not as you would the TIMES. Once that bit of definition is agreed upon, we turn to the main issue at hand which is the definition of

liberalism - hardly a new discussion. To my mind, Hicks is drawing a distinction and a very valid one between "interested Liberalism" and "disinterested Liberalism." I don't know if I can make myself clear: his criticism is that Lerner has committed himself to Russia, to Labor, to similar movements and ideals and causes either pro or con, to the point where it warps the balance and fairness of his treatment of those topics. I think that that is the gist of your comment too, Daddy. And granting an extreme in FM, I think that that criticism is not wholly justified since in carrying it to a logical conclusion for the man whose liberalism is a real policy, a guide to his politics and his economics, you deny him firm footing and rather leave the true open-minded liberal as a man swinging around in the air of free thought. A fluid mind is fine but it has to be able to reach a conclusion and a decision every now and then and proceed with a certain standard of judgment. The complaint against Lerner and FM is that he carries his "interested liberalism" to the point of losing its fluidity altogether; However tight that maybe and I might agree with Hicks, you must recognize that Lerner is a liberal who has already settled his thinking on the "comprehensive lines for a better way by which the nations can live happily with each other" and criticize him on that basis. Do not commit the same error of which you accuse him. As for your final remark that the voice of the liberal should be still and small - I do not agree at all - do you think the voice of the Zionists should be still and small?

That is it for this noontime - all my love to you -



Regards to Doris.