

April 30th 1945

Dear Ones,

Well, I did an honest days work today instead of stewing in my own juice here in the office as I usually do and I feel better for it. I finished up with some volleyball and tonight I think I will go up to the Information-Education section - Herb is conducting a discussion of Poland's role today. I heard from Neil and Aunt Ida today, and there was one letter from home.

I knew practically nothing about Hannegan until I read the Pearson article - the quirks in politics are certainly amazing in retrospect; half of the fun of history is to look back on all the "if's" - the old "For loss of nail, the shoe was lost; for loss of a shoe a horse was lost, etc" routine is always applicable. I wonder if it is really Mussolini who was killed today in Northern Italy? Time will tell - Germany certainly is reeling; if the first defenses of the Munich area are any indication even the vaunted Bavarian fortress may be of no avail. I wish you had commented on Robert Lynd's review of the Bevan pamphlet "Why not Trust the Tories?" I would like to know how you relate his criticism to your own position, Daddy. I think I will send it back to you. I am glad that Lou Raybin sent that explanatory note to Uncle Lou - it is pretty indicative of his desire to keep active and keep moving and equally so of his basic good judgment. I did not know that Bobby Morris was four-F - looks as though all the Morrises are in a marrying mood; the war hasn't hit them too badly. After I get around to answering it, I will send you Aunt Ida's most recent letter; I think you will be interested in it. A fellow who is here now is on his way East and on the chance he may stop at 129, I told him to took up Juj. Good for Uncle Sam; it must be a pleasant feeling to be a friend of the President of the United States. Nine tenths of the clippings are about Truman - one thing: Truman will be a tougher portrayal for the cartoonists that was FDR! So they upped the minimum age in Maine to 15 - I guess that that is progress, though why they included bowling alleys I do not know; does the act also provide for working conditions? The Bulletin about the Army program is correct; orientation programs and publications have stressed the meaning and danger of Fascism. South Pacific Base Command puts out a very good weekly called War Week which has an education section to drive home the positive lessons of this war. On the whole I would say that there is a new emphasis on education and a healthy one it is. You can't help but absorb the stuff it comes at you so often - San Francisco is getting wonderful explanatory publicity and news coverage. I still don't think that Charlie Chaplin is the father of the Barry child.

The defeat of the Port Bill by the Maine legislature was rather discouraging. A great opportunity for the development of our State has been missed again - it will be interesting to see if the support of the Gannett papers can help rally the rest of the State to bring pressure for the passage of the Bill. It is true that in the short range it brings benefit to one section of the state, may hurt others, and will bring nothing but a tax burden on still others - but in the long run it is a move in the right direction: there will be more encouragement for industry to come to Maine, in all parts of the State; there will be incentive for new and improved transportation facilities; there will be a general reawakening throughout the state with the influx of new trade and activity; and last but far from least, any program which promises growth for our state promises a better state for the serviceman to return to. Thanks for keeping me up to date on the matter - I did not note whether or not Hildreth had taken a stand on the matter; does the governor have any real influence in the House and Senate? As the party leader can he crack the whip? The dispute between the big city and the uplands is certainly not new - the rub is that if we miss the boat it may be too late and other areas, specifically the Port of Boston will again reduce us to a hinterland position. It is our chance to escape it.

That covers things for this Monday evening; got paid today. I have all the clippings more or less consolidated and there should be a couple of more letters on the topic of Truman and such sundry matters.

Regards to Doris

All my love, 