

May 2, 1945

Dear Ones,

Monday evening's session on Poland was pretty good - there were about 5 officers and 20 enlisted men there; Herb did a good job as moderator. The discussion was fast and well thought out - one fellow turned out to be a member of the Polish National Council and another was a refugee from the Lodz area. There was a sharp clash in the attitude toward the current question along the current lines - one little incident stood out: Father Morrissey, the Catholic Chaplain, complained that the discussion was beside the point since the London government was the legal government of Poland - to which one of the men answered "Like Francisco Franco in Spain?!" That was as rough as the party got - on the whole it was informative and healthy, though certainly no one with a definite opinion changed his mind one way or the other. Yesterday was another busy day - I guess I told you that Thorpe went off on a little trip and I have had a chance to work in my own way and at my own pace and I feel better for it; I don't know when he will be back. When the evening time rolled around I decided to see "Woman in the Window" instead of going to Spanish - I think one of my last letters reflected my growing dissatisfaction with the class; at this stage I do not think I am getting enough out of it, educationally or as relaxation, to make it worth while. The picture was a little disappointing - it has a trick ending, but that does not make up for the way the picture is dragged out; they made a full length feature out of a story which, as presented, just didn't have enough in it to stretch it out that long. Afterward, we played a little poker.

I do not know the full details which aroused the discussion, but I cannot agree with the General Motors blurb on unionization of management. Apparently there is a dispute between a group of foremen and the company (not GM) and the foremen have been ordered to hold an election to reach a basis for bargaining. The foremen are not being forced to join the union to which the laborers belong as far as I can see. GM attacks this since the foreman is a part of management and his efficiency and integrity depend on an independence from the men over whom he works; this disruption of foremen's authority would hurt production and industry and hurt collective bargaining. I cannot see the logic of their argument, and I cannot see the threat to American industry - apparently a group of foremen, who are employees of capital in a management role, have a dispute over their working conditions and are seeking to rectify the bad conditions - to whip this up into an entire picture of unionized management does not seem to hold water. But as I say, I don't know the whole story - I imagine it is a Briggs plant that is concerned.

The Lippmann article on the US and the Charter and the fact that trusteeship over Pacific islands, etc, is hardly in accord with any strict interpretation of the Charter was very good. The people who cry loudest about Poland, are likely to be the first to claim for the US everything from Singapore to Sakhalin as necessary for our defense. Our combinations of realism and idealism for a successful peace must be consistent. I see that LIFE gave quite a spread to Elizabeth May Craig - her columns are consistently well written and intelligent in their approach. The news today is of the continuing crumbling of the German armed forces and of the rumored death of Adolf Hitler; the lack of any recognized German leadership at this time has borne out Eisenhower's contention that there will be no overall surrender, although some may seek to speak for the Nazi government. It may yet be some time before Germany can officially be designated as militarily (spelling?) secure.

I will try to clean up most of my "FDR-Truman" clippings in a letter this evening; I have nothing special on the docket for tonight. OK for now - I hope you have written as to whether or not you received that money order whose stub I forget to detach.

All my love,

Regards to Doris.

