

May 9th 1945

Dear Ones,

Today's mail brought a batch of letters from home dated April 30th and May 1st - a number of them were clipping-filled. The news today has concentrated on the aftermath of the news of V-day. We had a good volleyball game this evening. I am skipping the movie but we are having a get-te-gether tonight at the club for one of the Red Cross men (an Aussie) who is going home tomorrow.

As you know, I am in full agreement with you that the defeat of Germany as a nation must be thorough and lasting - I was glad to see that you are ready to trust Russia, Poland, Belgium, and the others for the enforcement of a divided Germany. The argument of creating a martyr psychology, a great national irritanda does not bother me in the least - if any German dares to claim that Germany deserves statehood and its privileges before every last individual German and every German association and endeavor, social, political, economic, cultural, or otherwise, have proven their indisputable democracy, then let the defeat be impressed on the poor mind once more. National fascism must be destroyed if it means destroying the people who espouse it. But as I have said, national fascism is the obvious fascism - less obvious and more dangerous is the fascism of the "democratic" scene, the fascism which seeks any outlet - destruction of the labor movement, anti-Semitism, cartels and trade barriers, discrimination and bigotry of hate - to ward off the day when we can truly say private welfare is identified with the public good. This is something that we will come back to again and again - it is one pole of an argument in which we are already involved. It is part of the world evolution of our era - it carries a link from J P Morgan and the Pews, from Hjalmar Schacht, from Henry Wallace, from Pegler and Pearson, from the NAM and the ABA, from British imperialism and from Russian communism, from Hayek and from Hansen, from Hearst, and from FM. To overlook the significance and the alternatives of this world condition is to miss the decisive nature of our day and age.

The FM story of continuing trouble in California over the Nisei is discouraging. It is a direct parallel to the anti-Negro and anti-Semitic movements which can always seem to muster support with the slightest provocation. There seems to be little to say except that the answer is more Ives Bills and more FEPC enforcement; surely in a nation which has just defeated the Nazi hordes in battle we are strong enough to define these actions of hate for what they are and to make them illegal. We have a great deal of progress in education and public spirit to be made before prejudice is effectively curbed, but these first steps can and must be made. I see that there are some snags in the Pennsylvania equivalent of the Ives Bill; what happened to the Massachusetts measure? With the exception of the South and its fringes, such legislation should have wholehearted support. We have discussed the South before - I do not feel that education of either whites or blacks in the South has reached the point where an Ives Bill would have a constructive effect. Only after the war and the return of the soldiers to the South, will we really be able to evaluate the spirit, the potential, and the measures suitable for southern progress on democratic lines. Arnell of Georgia is one bright spot on the landscape.

I see that the Middlesex squabble still goes on - I wonder: is Harvard Med one of the forces working against the recognition of that school? Have you ever seen any official statements of Harvard's attitude toward the recognition of Middlesex? I see that FM raised the question to Chandler as to why he was quitting the Senate for baseball at this critical point in world and national affairs. I doubt if "Happy" has the real stuff in him unless it all be concentrated in his happiness. I enjoyed the answer of Morgan which was published in one of the Pearson columns: "The position of JP Morgan and Co during this war and the last is too well known to need defense from these charges." Uh, huh.

OK for now

All my Love,
Lenny