

Sunday, May 20th

Dear Ones,

Still no mail - last night I went out and spent the evening at the bay with George and Paul. They twisted my arm and so for the second time in two nights I laughed my way through "Girl Crazy" - even though I knew minutely everything that was coming I still enjoyed Rooney's antics and the music. I was pretty tired and was back here at the command and asleep before 11. Today is rainy and overcast - I couldn't help but think that that seems to be the usual thing: the sun is bright all week and on the weekend it rains - it was always that way at school: the weekend would be spoiled by rain or snow, but Monday morning as we trudged off to class the sun would be out in all its glory.

One of the TRENDS you sent has the comment that the reappointment of Lilienthal "means no more than that Truman feels that he has done a good job in running TVA." You can look at it that way if you like, but suppose that Lilienthal had not been reappointed - would that have meant only that Truman did not think Lilienthal was doing a good job? I do not think so: first of all it would have been a sign of undo acquiescence to the expressed opinion of McKellar; secondly, it would have been the opening wedge for an attack on all of TVA and the work it has done in Tennessee and the surrounding states; and thirdly it would have been a strong rebuff to those who look for similar projects in Missouri and other river regions. I can remember vaguely back to when I was a freshman in highschool and the topic of debate was the TVA - if I recall correctly at the ripe old age of 13 I was against it. I wonder if I ever saved any of those old speeched or debating cards. Speaking of that, I wonder has become of Warren Horton and Harry Eddy?

I must admit that I am becoming more and more optimistic about the end of the war over here - despite my avowed policy of being pessimistic in order to be pleasantly surprised. It seems to me that the fate and fortunes of the Japs in Burma and in the Philippines, which are large land masses, are better indication of how the final defeat of the Japanese will shape up than the sever battles of the island fortresses. We will be able to tell better when we see the first effectiveness of equipment and men transfered from the European theatre. Boy, the Ordnance companies in ETO must be working on a wicked schedule - when you read that equipment is being orted out and repaired for shipment to Asia, you can bet your bottom dollarx that 3/4 of it is Ordnance from guns and tanks through watches and ammunition. On a more gigantic scale it is like maneuvers - we had little work which we could accomplish on maneuvers during a field problem; but came the weekend, the infantry went into town while the Ordnance went to work repairing the damage done during the problem.

You know, I'll bet it has been six months since I last heard from Lou Raybin - had I not written to him, I would no expect to hear from him. If he is as indifferent in other such little considerations as he is in our correspondence, it is easy to see how he creates a barrier that is hard to overcome. I guess I told you that Bill Snower wrote to me that he had looked Lou up and they they had managed to get together one evening. I hope that in one of his future letters, Bill will write me his full impressions of the man. Bill is still in Washington - he must be doing some sort of spezialized work; but despite that and his eyes, I wonder if he does not now stand the risk of being sent to some inactive overseas area, specifically Europe.

That does it for this morning. I hope that some mail comes in this afternoon - I am running out of ideas, I fear. OK for now -

All my love,

Regards to Doris



Dear Ones,

This morning brought a couple of letters from May 11 so I assume that still waiting to be sorted and delivered are all the letters from the early part of that week. I am sort of hanging around the office, but I doubt if many reports will come in today; the movie tonight is pretty sad - I don't know what is on the docket. I have the radio on - enjoying not listening to commercials. That will be one of the many readjustments to civilian life, I will have to make.

I don't know how to go about answering your letter on Hayek, Daddy - the first question in my mind is the definition of a planned economy: where is the line drawn between an economy with planning and a planned economy? I do not think that that question can be answered except by experience, yet I think that in my various discussions of Wallace and of Hayek I have touched upon it sufficiently so that you know my basic attitudes. To my mind, the planning, per se, is not the most basic consideration - more critical is the nature of the government which will do the planning, the nature of the democracy, the alertness and potential of the democrats, their historical tradition, their ability to make progress and to develop. Therefor when you liken the possible course of America to the course which Italy and Germany took, you are touching into these fundamental interests. First your fear of power per se - you present the possibility of a President's packing the court, controlling the elections, supposedly wrapping Congress around his finger, through the medium of a planned economy, and voila, the American dictator, the destruction of the principle of division of powers. You say that as if you think it is not only a possibility, perhaps a probability had Roosevelt lived. You reaffirm that "freedom in the sense of freedom from necessity" is "the guaranty by a centralized power of a planned economy." (Daddy, don't ever let me read in your letters criticism of another for failure to support the Atlantic Charter.) Certainly I call to your attention the great Western European heritage of the Magna Carta and the Declaration of Independence - and still you do not see the point. How you misunderstand and misinterpret our progress! Do you think that a Hitler - or let us say a malevolent president - could arise on the American scene and with the national purse strings under his control destroy the impression of 719 years on the minds and hearts of men? Do you think that our democracy is so shallow that the power could grow to an uncontrollable point? How can you liken our democracy to the German efforts of 1920-1933? How can you liken the Beer Hall Putsch to the Court Bill of 1937? And then you say - and I could cry when I read these words of yours - "To the argument that the 3rd and 4th terms came about through the democratic process of popular elections, I rejoin in Hayek's words that 'where he has all the powers at his command to make certain that the vote will go in the direction he desires' the election will go that way." Do you mean that? do you mean that?

Far be it from me to put democracy on an unassailable height and claim that it requires no watch, no care. Nothing could be further from truth. And it's my attempt to find the ways in which democracy can grow and move forward, not stand still. It is my attempt to look about me and to see what is wrong and to see what corrective measures need be taken, to see how conditions have changed, to see what new solutions resulting from new attitudes need be taken. It is not to deny economic competition to say that men must not starve and that it is somebody's responsibility to see to it that they don't, to see to it that they maintain the standards of human decency. It is not to deny democracy or to misinterpret "freedom" to say that the freedom to earn a livelihood is the same thing as the freedom which keeps others from preventing you to do so. There is not an iota of justification for putting democracy up as one pole and "socialism" as another and to portray the latter as a denial of the ideas of self-reliance and initiative of the former and therefor to damn every effort of society as a whole to plan for the guarantee of freedom of the individual member. To use your own word, it is your interpretation that is "vicious" that would deny to the individual the guarantee that his free society works in such a way that no man can exercise his freedom in economics or in politics to the overall