

May 29th 1945

Dear Ones,

Not much special to report - things are a little busier, but in terms of actual work there is very little to be done. I can just picture during the VE day affair when Max Pinansky was speaking - the day must have lost a little of its solemnity in the midst of a Thurmanic reaction! I don't know the man or his family - in fact I don't think that I have ever seen him except at Shul; I do recall those campaign pictures of him and his brood. As for the various analyses of Rhonda Markson - I hardly expected Dr and Mrs Caplan to approve of anyone less than a PhD; off hand I would say that Rhonda is pretty fortunate in not getting stuck with a complete lemon. I don't have to tell you that I can't worry about Jim Abrahamson - the idea of not taking the job in Greece because it didn't appeal to him sounds fine. Where is Sade now?

It is interesting to note that Pearson calls Eden the most powerful figure at San Francisco - what the British lack in bargaining power they make up in diplomacy and politics. I am collecting most of the clippings on San Francisco and will go through them again. By the time this letter reaches you I imagine that the Conference will be closing up the last details and pulling in all the loose ends; I know that you will send the final documentation and results which will mark another step in our progress to world order and freedom. I enjoyed the many clippings giving the full details of the surrender of Germany.

So Clarence Little is going to conduct a detailed study in the comparative importance of heredity and environment. Whenever we have a discussion on the topic, those who argue for heredity make one important error - they confuse the environment which is the home and influence of ones parents as heredity. That is, someone shows up with a trait similar to that of one of his parents and it is argued that it is heredity, "like father, like son," when actually if the child had been attached at birth to another household he would of picked up the habits of the members of his foster home rather than his genuine home. I remember how people remark that when I am in Shul I put my hand to my eyes and relax in a manner very similar to Daddy's habit - obviously it is something that I have copied from environmental association not that I have inherited.

I guess that the Thurman grandparents have returned to Boston by this time - right into the midst of all the wedding excitement. I wonder how it feels to see your grandchild getting married. There certainly is an excellent possibility that Grandma and Grandpa Thurman may enjoy a brood of great grandchildren within the next five years or so. I am just itching to get back there and do my bit to that end!! As for your dreaming about my return home, as you say that is still a long way off - true I have more points than the boys who have just entered the service or are just going overseas now, but I am still so far down the line. And when you come right down to it, my age, my marital status ( or lack of it ) everything points to my being just the kind of a guy whom the Army will keep until the end. Time will tell - anyway, when Japan is defeated, I don't think that there will be too big a time gap between the first releases and tail-enders; we should be prepared for it and the plans made for the cleanup of supply areas and the return of men and supplies to Stateside.

I thought that the letter from my Class Agent for the Harvard Fund was pretty sad; in fact I should imagine that the best approach might be to keep in touch but to deemphasize the stress on contributions until after the war. I'm probably wrong - but somehow the rah-rah Class loyalty falls a little flat at this time; if anything, the stress should be on college rather than Class spirit now. Toscanini certainly did not mince any words in his response to an invitation to return to Italy; the question of the House of Savoy seems to have dropped from the front of the stage right now - but it is certainly something which will not be settled by Italians alone. Abdication would be the easiest solution - abdication of the entire monarchy.

OK for this noontime -

All my love,

*Gummes*