

August 5 1945

Dear Ones,

I will enclose a letter I just wrote to the new Veterans Counsellor at school; I also sent him copies of my commissioning orders. Perhaps he will have some new leads for me - I'll let you know when and if he responds. I certainly have my name on file at every possible school file. Last night we saw a super picture - "The Clock" - it really packs a wonderful wallop; then I proceeded to lose again at poker - it's back to solitaire for me! I am caught up on most of my correspondence; today is wet and muggy - very uncomfortable. Before I forget - can you trace down Eli Berman's address for me? he hasn't written for quite some time. I think that his home address is 132 Terry Road or something like that in Hartford; I thought that perhaps you may be corresponding with Mrs Silverstone - if not, it is just as easy for me to write to his home. Hal Stein has departed from this rock for the northern areas.

I enjoyed your letter of the 22nd Daddy; thanks for the review of your cases, and of the labor picture in Portland. I want to take issue with you in your analysis of the current national picture of labor, however, Daddy. "It seems to me obvious that what labor is trying to do now is not to maintain a strong place in the national economy but to heap vengeance on capital for many of its wrongs in the past." And you cite the Philly incident. To me it is not at all obvious; in fact I feel that your analysis is incorrect. You know my stand pretty well, I have written at great length and made clear to you that I feel that labor unions must come under the requirements of legal and financial responsibility. You also know my position as to labor's role in our economy. I believe that if the Ball-Hill-Hatch proposals were modified to exclude compulsory arbitration you would find that the union leaders and the rank and file of the unions would be ready to accept its modifications to the NLRA. I agree with you in every point of regulating the mechanics of union organization and the like. But you have yet to write to me about your opinions of the overall labor and economic picture, you have yet to contain your criticisms within an examination of the American economy, its relation to the political scene, and the role which labor and the labor unions will have. You have yet to answer the specific questions: do you believe that labor as much as capital has a stake in the success of production, management, and distribution? do you believe that it is the conscious effort of labor to work against full employment and thus full production, as is often the case with capital in times of recession and depression and low return on capital investment? do you believe that labor is unjustified in making its demands for assurances and guarantees against the time when investment capital will be withdrawn and jobs will disappear? who do you believe has the greater stake in the functioning of our economy in terms of bread of butter, labor or capital? Now, I want it to be clear that I do not condone the excesses of labor, but for the very reason that you point out - that we are pendulum swingers - I do say that labor is in the position of having to know where it stands before it lets the pendulum swing back. Individual unions are as guilty as individual factory owners of violating the spirit and hope of our current attitudes toward business-labor relations and their affect on our economy. As hard as it may be for a great many of us to realize it, we are in the midst of a great revolution today. The idea of combining political liberty with economic equality, rather than with untrammelled economic liberty, is still fairly new, and its ramifications are not simple or easy to grasp. But you cannot discuss the current labor questions without taking them into consideration. Labor will have its guarantees - the fact that labor is not perfect will not deny them to it.

The article on the Buck Committee report interested me a great deal; the basic outline for minimum "core curricula" in secondary levels hits upon a critical factor. The Army has shown me that the arguments raised by the committee are remarkably valid. It is something which I have discussed with Miss Pease at great length in our correspondence. The teaching done at Deering in my day missed the Harvard standard on a number of points - specifically in the stress placed upon grasping movements and personalities and their significance, instead of memory by rote on the argument of teaching "study methods." Basically the new report seeks to give everyone a "general education" before he starts on his "special education." It must be recognized that that is speaking in terms of a long range program and it assumes an educational opportunity which is not presented to all sections and areas of our country today; Harvard has done what should be done by the US Director of Education and what should be followed up by state and city superintendents. It must be coordinated with greater appropriations for education and educational facilities; it must be supplemented by more generous scholarships. At present it can be applied at best only to the North eastern corner of the country. The report seeks to raise education to its proper level of importance in our social structure. As for the changes recommended for Harvard: they are not as far reaching as the report would make it seem in terms of the elective system. They are important in the renewed stress on the survey course. The proposal calls for six out of sixteen prescribed courses and I think that that is an excellent idea; I would remind you that I had to take Physics as a Freshman since a course in the natural sciences was required. I am all for the courses as outlined in the report and I do not feel that they would be cut into the individuality which characterizes study at Harvard. What I thrived on at Harvard was that I could make of it what I would - I got as much out of it as I put into it; for that reason I am partial to the tutorial system. And although the prospective changes in

the tutorial system are labeled as a 50% cut, the new program does not sound very different from the way the system worked during the war years when I studied under it. I do not think that the Committee intended to deemphasize individual study at the junior and senior levels or to deny the close and profitable contacts that can grow between the serious student and an interested tutor. In general then, those are my first reactions; I am going to save the clipping - and probably write to Dave Owen about it; find out what he has to say. The new approach which stresses the general education and links it to the national educational picture is a significant departure from the spirit of the elective system, but I hope that it will not mean the curtailment of individual study and educational freedom to explore, factors which I enjoyed.

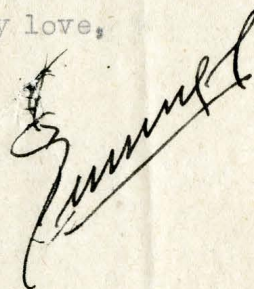
The New York Mayoralty race is certainly tooth and nail all the way; the party confusion seems to make party defection the rule rather than the exception. I think that O'Dwyer was very wise in rescinding the support of Davis. As far as the local issues involved in the campaign, I am completely in the dark - nobody ever talks about New York City's administration - rather the election is based on national grounds. On the face of things the Democratic-American Labor Party combination should win the election - but labels mean nothing to the average New Yorker who apparently is politically extremely acute. One thing is indicative - O'Dwyer is taking the initiative; that is the argument seems to be whether O'Dwyer and his supporting elements are good or bad and Goldstein is just the alternative. To get away from the specific issues of the election, the splits that occur in New York's political maneuverings typify the weakness of certain liberal groups; they spend more time and effort in attacking other liberal groups and in that way play into the hands of the non-liberal groups which should be the objects of their attention. These splits are the signs of a lot of thinking and political seriousness and idealism and of poor practical politics. They seriously hurt the causes of the Left.

The Browder regime seems to be over and the American communists are ready to stop playing hide and go seek with themselves. Certainly the Browder policy convinced few Americans of any change in the American communist picture and did little to strengthen the communist position. Sooner or later the average and sincere communist is going to come around to the realization that his strength will come from honesty rather than from subterfuge. It is unfortunate that when the communists support a candidate, a terrible stigma is attached to him, for the Communists realize that they cannot win political victory and they are ready to support the liberal elements against the common enemies of the Right. The TIMES reports would indicate that although the strike is off, the negotiations between the News deliverers union and the publishers is as far from real solution as ever.

That sort of does it for this Sunday -

All my love,

Reagrds to Doris.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. G. Samuel". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat slanted style with a long horizontal stroke at the bottom.