

ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON, D. C.



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

WASHINGTON

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October 28th, 1939

Dear Dad:-

I am very sorry that I neglected to report on Betty Lou in my last letter; it was written in somewhat of a hurry and without adequate reference to your letter. I have inquired at the office of the Special Division, which is handling cases of repatriation, about the best way of paying for her passage. The gentleman there said that the best method is to buy the ticket in this country, and arrange with the agents to have it delivered at the seaport where the embarkation is to take place. Thus if Betty Lou is to return on the Holland-America Line, you could pay for the ticket at any of their offices and have the ticket handed over against proper identification (by means of her passport) in Rotterdam. The same arrangements could be made either with the Italian Line or the U.S. Line.

In the event that it is necessary to send her money to Germany, so that she will be able to travel to Holland or any other point, the Department will undertake the shipment of money to her. I assume that she would have to come in to the Consulate in Frankfurt to get the money, and that it would be sent to Frankfurt by pouch. I suppose bank checks in dollars would be the best way of sending the money; she could then cash a part (say, one check) in Germany for the necessary marks, and another in Holland or on the boat for spending money on the way over. I should think it would be better if the aunt in Alzay would pay the expense of her leaving Germany, and Sarah could then send her a check in the proper amount to cover them. If there were any way to send travelers checks, that would, of course, be best of all, but I do not know whether you can take out checks when the person is not present to counter-sign them. If Sarah has any more questions, I will be glad to take them up with the proper individual.

Don't forget to let me know in your next letter about the election: I shall, of course, vote against the "ham and eggs" pension scheme and the change in the number of signatures required to start an initiative action, but I would like your opinion about the various bond issues and tax proposals, as well as some of the subordinate candidates for various offices. I am holding my ballot until I hear from you.

If you have a chance, I would appreciate your sending my hats and watch along. Perhaps you could get another hat box from George Pfeffer or Rutledges for the former. Don't forget the watch chain that goes with the watch. My old wrist watch

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is behaving most erratically these days. It gains at least twelve minutes every night, and frequently goes on sprees during the day and gets half an hour ahead. On such occasions, I just knock it a couple of times against the side of my hand, and that usually seems to uncatch whatever is caught, and the watch keeps moderately good time as long as I have it in my pockets. At night when I take it out, however, it just goes wild.

Last Saturday I finally got around to buying a new suit. I got a rather nice blue one, with a herring-bone pattern, for \$40. - alterations \$2 extra, much to my annoyance. That is due to the operation of the tailors' unions, I hear. They demand certain fixed sums for each job instead of receiving a regular salary from the clothing store - or perhaps in addition to a "retaining" fee. Now I still have to get that suit made the cloth for which I bought while in Stuttgart. I intended to do that this afternoon, but happened to meet a college classmate in a bookstore, and we stood there talking for over an hour. By the end of that time, it was getting a little late to go way down town, so I have put it off again. Procrastination is the bane of my existence. It is really terribly up-hill work to get even the simplest things done: buying a suit requires a miracle of energy; getting a hair-cut, superhuman foresight and determination. Did I tell you in my last letter that I have submitted my accounts, and hope to get a check for upwards of \$200. by Monday? That ought to help out quite a bit to balance the budget, but it certainly took a long time to get around to handing it in. However, I must say in my own defense that there were tremendous numbers of forms - to be exact, there were five main types of forms which had to be sent in in two, three and four copies, all containing virtually the same information arranged in slightly different order.

I have decided to go up to Philadelphia next weekend to see Grant Meade. I has asked me a couple of times to come, but I had not heard from him for some time, and so had done nothing. After pay-day, November 1, I ought to have enough funds to make the trip. Grant is, I guess, going to stay with the Realsilk Hosiery Co., at least for the time being. He is very disgusted by his persistant failure to get a government job. Twice he has been turned down on physical grounds, and feels rather bitter about it. At first he thought perhaps there really was something wrong with him; in fact, he told me that his private doctor had corroborated what the civil service examiner had told. In his last letter, however, he says that further examination revealed no trouble, and he is pretty mad at the government in general for having turned down his noble gesture in offering his services.

I haven't written to Janie for a long time, and I hope that you will read this letter to her and ask her pardon for me. If no more important business comes up about Betty Lou, I will address my next letter to her. Give everyone my love, and take good care of your cold. I do not like this idea of your having colds all winter every winter. It will surely undermine your resistance.

Love and best wishes, *William*

