

May 19, 1944

Dear Mums and Jimmy,

Thank you for your letter written Monday. To answer it step by step: We would love to stop at the farm on our way up! The only thing is I'm not sure how long we could stay - whether overnight or not - because William will perhaps have only two or maybe three days to make the trip back and forth between New York and Washington, and he has business in New York. In any case, we certainly will stop over at Barley Sheaf - I'm dying to see how nice you've made it! We now expect to go up the weekend of the 27th & 28th so we can see Daddy again before he leaves for "Le Far-West" as the French say.

I'm so glad you have the coffee dispenser. Did I ask you for a silver tea pot only? If I asked you for a creamer & sugar bowl also, please ignore the request, because I don't need the two accessories. Just the tea pot, which being silver would go with my cups & saucers & sugar bowl, etc. The two trays would be lovely, mamma, but aren't you giving up something you

dearly love? Returning to the subject of the teapot, I'd rather have a silver one than another pattern of china, my sweet mamma, but ~~thank~~ you enormously for your generous offer of the beautiful Spode one.

To try to answer Jimmy's question about the vacuum cleaner & toaster: the Caracas current is 110 AC, 50 cycles, & Jimmy told me once, as I remember at best, that American appliances would work on that. However, I can't remember whether or not you were able to find a vacuum cleaner. I certainly do hope so!! If you already have, tell us how much it cost. How about an iron? If we've already been over this ground before, excuse me for asking again, but I've forgotten.

I've bought a light powder blue cotton shag rug for the dining room - extremely pretty but in all probability impractical. For a 9x12, it was only \$92. Rugs are hard to come by these days - especially decent ones without patterns - and William and I loved the look of this one. I bought curtain material in light & dark blue & tan modified plaid, which I think will drape well and look "chic" with the conservative modern furniture. To be sure the colors harmonized with the color of my new rug, I lugged a small size ^{rug} of the same stuff down to the drapery department of Woodward & Lothrop, to the amazement of all who saw me.

The other day I had a brainwave of enormous proportions, to wit: I think instead of a sofa I'll buy two matching love seats to place oppo-

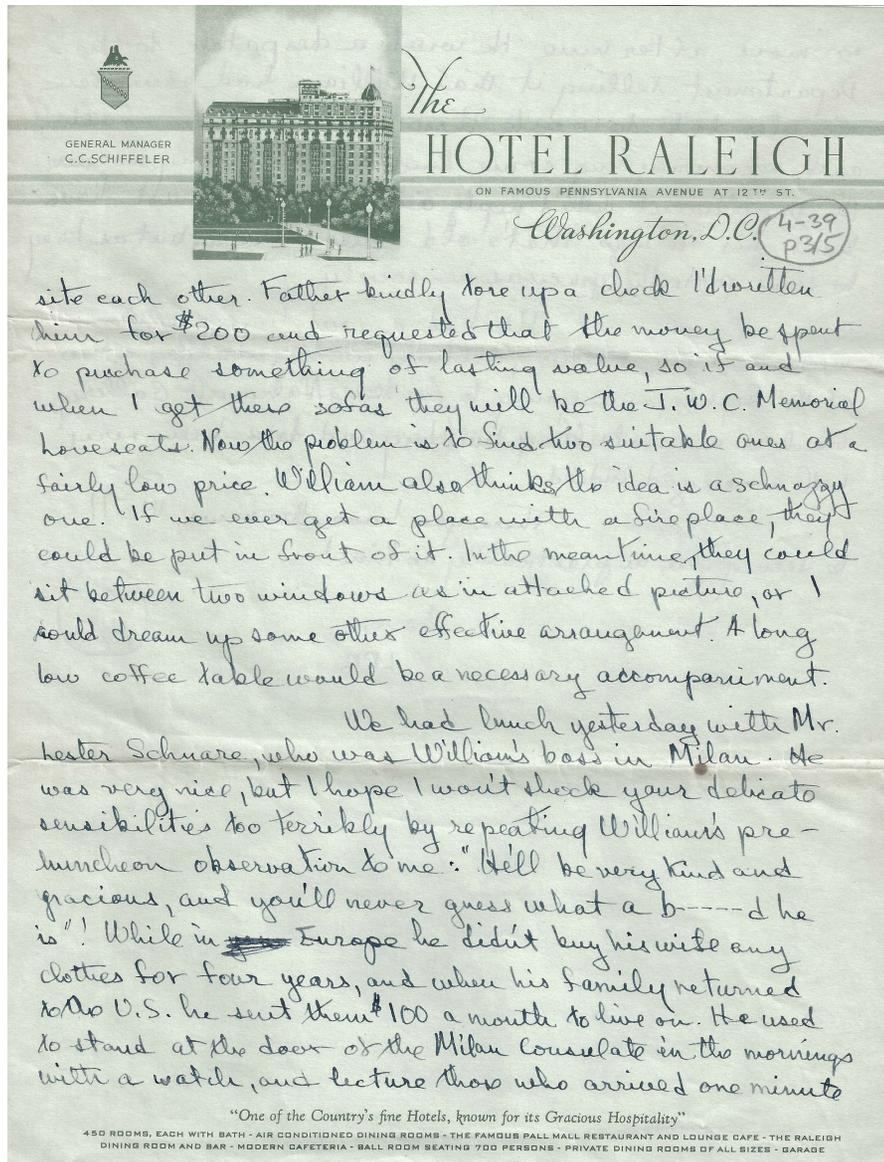
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site each other. Father kindly tore up a check I'd written him for \$200 and requested that the money be spent to purchase something of lasting value, so if and when I get these sofas they will be the J. W. C Memorial Love seats. Now the problem is to find two suitable ones at a fairly low price. William also thinks the idea is a schnazzy one. If we ever get a place with a fire place, they could be put in front of it. In the meantime, they could sit between two windows as in attached picture, or I could dream up some other effective arrangement. A long low coffee table would be a necessary accompaniment.

We had lunch yesterday with Mr. Lester Schnare, who was William's boss in Milan. He was very nice, but I hope I won't shock your delicate sensibilities too terribly by repeating William's pre-luncheon observation to me: "He'll be very kind and gracious, and you'll never guess what a b-----d he is"! While in Europe he didn't buy his wife any clothes for four years, and when his family returned to the U.S. he sent them \$100 a month to live on. He used to stand at the door of the Milan Consulate in the mornings with a watch, and lecture those who arrived one minute

or more after nine. He wrote a despatch to the Department telling it that William had been ten minutes late to work three times in three months, and recommending some kind of disciplinary measure. The Department didn't reply at all, which must have hurt his feelings. That's old hester Schnare, but as I say he seems perfectly gracious in society.

We had a good time over the weekend with Father, talking away, visiting a few of the Sights, and going to the new National Gallery, which is in a striking building and has been very well arranged indeed.

There you have the news. We'll be seeing you in practically no time!

love,
LPR

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