

Bethesda, April 24, 1950

Dear Mamma,

I was glad to get your letter on the subject of your latest trips to Westfield, and learn what the latest news is from there. I haven't spoken to Pop on the subject since he returned, and he went up to Camden today to get Helen's driver's license, so I won't have an opportunity for a few days to come. We are having some Fletcher School friends of William in to dinner on Tuesday, which will keep me busy tomorrow. They came over to dinner Saturday night, but we talked about other things, and that's all I've seen of them since they came back. Pop bought Laurence a magnet, some iron shavings, and a book about Babar the famous little elephant (translated from the French, and slyly darling!) with the result that Laurence has been a magnet and an elephant ever since. I've been hearing about Babar books for several years, but never got around to taking up Mrs. Rowse's suggestions about reading them to Laurence. I find them fascinating myself.

We have had a quiet social week, but we did go out to dinner on Thursday last at the Mills house, and that was very interesting. We met and talked to former Ambassador and Mrs. Donald Heath (who left Bulgaria, as you probably remember, quite recently). A most stimulating evening, talking about the Cold War in all its aspects. We will certainly miss the Millises when they go. I think I told you he has been transferred to Rio as Counselor of Embassy. He is going to leave next week, but Francesca, Grandfather, and the girls will stay until summer when Sheila graduates from High School. The twins will go down to Rio and go to school there next fall, but Sheila will have to come back and enter college. The twins are extatic about it, their mother reports. Shelly is coming back for a few weeks on consultation in June, to help with the last minute packing and to see their dear Shiela graduate. We have arranged to have a cocktail party for them at that time (JUNE 16). I sincerely hope it will be convenient for you to have Laurence down for a week then, just as you did last year at the time of our party - but if you don't think it will be, don't hesitate to come out with it and I'll make arrangements with Laura Rowse or something. Please feel absolutely free to say no, because I realize what an effort it is to take care of him, and how it restricts your movements when he is there.

I don't know what's wrong with the grass seed I put on at least a month ago - it doesn't seem to have germinated at all. We haven't had much rain until the last week, but I watered it a few days after scattering it on the lawn, and the week before I had put fertilizer on, too. I don't imagine the cold could have been bad for it - at least I was under the impression that grass liked cold weather fairly well. It was good quality shady lawn grass, too. I hope it isn't all going to fizzle.

I think I'd better stop now and dash off a note to John before the boy - I mean elephant - wakes up. I think I ought to invite little Leslyn down for a week, to balance Peedee's trip here. The only hitch is the transportation, but maybe we can work that out somehow.

Love,