

February 28, 1942

Darling:

We had quite a good time with the Jamersons the other night. I showed them the campaign films and we had a good dinner. The only subject they really love to talk about now is Donna Kay, their little girl. They are two contented people and happy as bugs. Eddie said the reason Jesse Jones had not done something about the rubber situation long ago was because we bought all our rubber from our dear ally England and it did not want us to set up to making synthetic rubber to the ruination of its market. Of course you can't make a statement like that to the papers at a time like this--so Jesse is neatly tied. Ed says its a deliberate campaign by Jesse-hating young New Dealers who have long been waiting for some ammunition to go after Mr. Jones with.

Darling, I would like to put in a paragraph in letters to real good friends, who would much rather hear about you than me or the office or anything else I could tell them, to the effect that your letters sound full of enthusiasm and that old fighting spirit and I believe you must be getting something done in your new work--you are feeling fine, etc. Any objections?

I wonder how Betty and Bob Long are feeling toward us now and also Marietta Brooks? I want to write to both of them, but don't quite know how to if they feel a little less friendly than formerly to us. Do you think they do, either of them?

Now about Mrs. George: she gave me some very helpful ideas, mostly about trivia, but that is what much of our work must consist of while our statesman is away. She sends the posters of Army and Navy insignia to the American Legion Headquarters as well as the schools and says they love them. She encloses a bulletin list with the baby books she send out, something like the Agricultural bulletin lists, offering various new pamphlets about baby care. She keeps up quite a little correspondence with the County Health Nurses (whose names can be had from Dr. Cox) about material she is able to get from them from Dr. Parran's set-up. That could be accompanied by a very sincere and timely letter about health and the present situation. Mrs. George also highly recommends these summaries of the American Government, a little

pamphlet compiled by Wright Patman, and really very good but my enthusiasm dwindled when I saw Wright's name on there so big. Mrs. George has sent out 1000. They cost \$12.50 per 1000. Mrs. George loves you dearly, but even she has a slightly raised eyebrow about our present rather odd state. Altadena Clark talks about it entirely too much, I think, (tho' I don't suppose she does to outsiders.) She asked me, "When do you think there's a chance of our boys coming back?" I had no idea. She said, "Well you don't think its fair for the district not to have a representative to vote for, say, two or three years do you?" I said I didn't think there would be much doing in Congress during the war anyway, all the power would be concentrated in the President and the executive branch, and we would be mostly a service agency to run errands and run down answers through the red tape for our constituents. She said, "But the country is getting so hot on the labor situation. Don't you think Congress is going to have to take some action on that?" All this is just chaff and I shouldn't bother you with it, because I haven't heard it from any important sources.

Darling, I was worried about the sound of one of your recent hand-written letters. Things weren't going well in your job. It sounded like you hadn't yet found the place where you could put out the maximum effective work. That is the most important thing in the world to me because you have something so real and so valuable to contribute. Let me hear if it is better.

Don't forget to send us word about who here in the office is named "Secretary." It is time we had a head. Remember, if you are even considering me that the title "secretary" carries quite a connotation of pay.

You asked me if there are any romances. There is one. It's been going on over seven years, and sometimes I feel that it's just beginning, and as far as any intelligence and charm I have can prevail it'll be going much stronger in 1962.

I'm going to Tex's and Wicky's for dinner tonight. They were very delighted with the baby's card from you!

Goodnight, my love,

Always yours,