

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

March 5, 1942

Dearest:

Here are a few birthdays to begin on:

- ✓ Donald Nichols (Dorothy's son) April 2
1810 37th St., N.W., Washington, D. C.
- ✓ Ann (Z) Goldschmidt February 14
3036 P. St., N. W., Washington, D. C.
- ✓ Charles E. Marsh January 17
- ✓ Col. E. O. Thompson March 24
- ✓ Gene Lassater July 23
Henderson, Texas
- ✓ Betty Long (Mrs. Bob Long) August 4
3817 Red River
- ✓ Alice Manners October 11
- Bob Long October 27

I shall find out the Rowe's and the Corcoran's when you send the packages I am to deliver. (I am almost sure that Margaret Josephine Corcoran's is January 11.) I will send more along. Mary refuses to be measured, even when bribed, but I happen to know she wears a size sixteen dress. I am sure you found my own measurements in the last large batch of mail. My feet are size $6\frac{1}{2}$ AAAA, which is extremely narrow, and equals about a size 5 in bedroom slippers that have no specific width.

I had a highly satisfactory talk with Dr. Craig yesterday about Lee McWilliams. Dear, there is one small thing I want to ask you: do you want it known, or object to it being known, to such people as Lee and Dutch Ehlert that their letters to you were sent on to me and I am carrying out your suggestions? As you see, I did not say so, because I am still working on the theory that you are with the Navy in some far-distant place and not concerned with

politics for the moment. However, in the case of Mr. Ehlert, I felt that some allusion as to why his letter of February 18 was being answered on March 4 should be made--but I did not.

Dr. Craig was so favorable that I am almost entirely sure Lee can be a field man for the REA with headquarters in Johnson City, beginning toward the end of April when the construction work from which he draws his salary is about finished. As I understand it, your purpose is not only to help a good friend and a competent worker retain a job but keep a valuable man in that section at least until early summer. I did not ask Dr. Craig about the salary --should I? I do not believe he would have been considering a much reduced salary for Lee without pointing it out to me. Because his attitude was not at all as though he were trying to "take care" of a non-producing employe as a favor but looking around for a place to retain a man he himself wanted to keep. He said REA had lost 96 engineers to the Army and Navy in the last two weeks. The poor man had the world on his shoulders and I felt so very sorry for him. Only that morning the Faddis Committee had excoriated him and the REA for holding strategic materials (especially copper) and wasting them on useless projects--their language was terribly bitter.

Dearest, yesterday quite by accident I unearthed a bill we owe. I went in to Camalier and Buckley, 1141 Connecticut Ave., N. W., to see about buying some soft fold-up bedroom slippers for someone, and when I gave my name in the course of the business they asked me our correct address--said a bill they sent you to the Shoreham had been returned. I asked what it was and it was \$42.50 for a fitted case. I feel sure it must be my Christmas present, isn't it? Since bills must be paid I am glad I found it now instead of later, and I have an idea. Yesterday I received from John two checks for \$50 each, one for the lighters, and one for something which he is to explain to me later. Dear, if that second check is for something I have already bought, let's forget it, because I am even with the world and don't owe anything (except about \$6 to Woodward's), and I would love to take that \$50 and pay this bill. Also, I know so little about your finances right now that I am hardly in a position to talk, but to be free from obligations and absolutely without debt is such a grand feeling,--Dear, you won't think me unappreciative I hope if I suggest that you cancel the order for my china (if possible) and pay off Mr. Wade. Then we could figure that we are free and unencumbered and have no little drags on our mind, couldn't we? Also, the same idea about the china goes in case you still lack a portion of paying those debts of your Dad's that you discussed with Uncle Sterling at Christmas. Youssef, what we would be buying, though not tangible like the china would be just the same a valuable feeling and worth something to me as well as to you.

I love you always,

Bill

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