

1 P. M., March 17, 1942

Dearest:

O. J. is working on the Otis McCarty business right now. It seems Agriculture and Interior have not yet worked out which of them this camp at Brackettville comes under; as soon as we get some definite information from one of them I will call Mrs. Connelly. I know all the background with Burlew, but will certainly go to see him if necessary.

*Good -  
I hope this  
goes this -*

Now to tell you about Gene Worley. This morning I asked Altavene to have a cup of coffee with me. This is the gatherings therefrom: Gene is at San Diego, California. He left here for there on February 19. She writes him, so she says, in care of the Commandant, 11th Naval District, San Diego, California. He appears to be traveling around as much as you are and she mentioned him being in Los Angeles, Burbank, and a few other places. Though she did not say, I believe that he is working on something about the California-born Japs. She said Gene Howe had started a "Let's write Gene" campaign and that the office had received an enormous volume of mail, urging him to return to his post as Congressman and telling him that he was of more value as one of 435 than as one of 2,000,000. She insisted that most of the mail was friendly in tone and "We'll vote for you anyway" stuff. Then she showed me a wire she received yesterday from Gene which said, in part, "Where is Lyndon and what is his attitude and his plans?" I told her we wrote you in care of the Postmaster in whatever the latest town we had heard from you was, and suggested maybe San Francisco. I figured you would have this by Wednesday and you could do what you liked about looking him up.

*I'll try to see  
Gene in  
San Diego  
this week -*

I am enclosing a very beautiful letter from John Sharpe which I was rather sorry to read. He has always seemed so reliable. I am going to just write and thank him and tell him how much we shall miss him and that I am sending it on to you.

*OK -*

Dear, I had a letter from Betty yesterday that I am going to quote to you in part.

"Bird, I am so very sad about all this war condition so many bad things happening all the time. I am also sad about Bob for I can see nothing ahead for him. If he should have to go he says he is going as a buck private, no matter how much people are trying to get him to get a commission and then if he does not go there is no law business for him at all as the war gets worse. I don't mind

*ask Bob for  
suggestions -  
do everything  
you can  
to help them*



working as you know and can, but if we could only be together and work it would not be so bad, but to have to be separated and lose what little we have and then work too is pretty bad. Bird, you are there on the ground floor and can you make any suggestions as to anything you know of that Bob could get into, either there or here connected with federal business or governmental business. Please let me know your views on this matter, and this is just for me for he does not know I am writing this to you.

Well, dear, I have a lot more work to do for him up here at the office this afternoon, so will stop. I go to three Red Cross classes a week, work there one day every week, and gave three weeks of my time all-day time I mean, to the drive, and go to night school three nights a week, so you see how much time I have left, after keeping an 8 room house and working in the yard, for social affairs, rarely get to attend any.

Had a good letter from Gene, you should see what all she is doing, even more than you or me it seems from her letter.

Bird, what do you think of this running situation? We are serious about putting your name on the ballot if Lyndon does not run, but we are circulating his petition now."

Darling, let me know what you think about my answer, and how far you would want to go in helping Bob. I am very fond of Betty. She talks too much and is for that reason a slightly dangerous woman (though not half so much so as a half dozen other women I know). But I like her for two reasons: first, I remember how many times she used to have me out to her house when I was just a little University co-ed with no prospects at all of being a "political asset"--and who seldom got good home-cooked meals and much enjoyed them; second, I like Betty because she works and I respect people who work instead of just playing bridge and living the life of a sloth. So give me your reactions, angel mine.

Mr. George Gibbons of Dallas, who seems to represent all the Texas oil men and is up here on the depletion fight, came by to see me just this minute. The burden of his thought was this: he understands your favorable position of the price of crude and the depletion allowance but he would like to have a copy of some such statement you have made so he can show it to Congressmen from other non-oil-producing states. He says the entire Texas delegation is ardently on the oil men's side but not so all other Congressmen and he would like to use your views to point out to them your opinion on the subject--he no doubt remembers the prestige you acquired last November and

*forget  
this -*



thinks it would serve well here. I knew you must have made some such statements, as we have been writing letters ever since I have been here about your taking a brief to the "President and other high officials" before you left, pointing out the necessity of keeping the price of crude up, and, I believe, of maintaining the depletion allowance. At any rate, I feel almost sure you made such statements in your campaign speeches. (Now, I have checked it and see that you did in San Marcos and later speeches. However, it is just a brief sentence and says "I am for maintaining the  $27\frac{1}{2}$  depletion allowance".)

Mr. Gibbons also said it would be helpful to have such statements to keep any of the oil men from saying, "Lyndon isn't here to be pushing this, and we need him here, etc. etc." Mr. Gibbons was very velvety about getting that point over but it wasn't hard to see what he was driving at. Since you really were on their side I felt it would be okay to get any credit therefrom and said we'd look up a copy of your statements both in any memorandum to the President and in campaign speeches and give them to him tomorrow. But I will check with Malcolm on it. Do you want to amplify your views in any further letter to him or to us or tell us any other place we might look for your expressions on it?? *Sounds rather important to me.*

Today I gave Lindley Beckworth a run for his money!! You know, half his popularity in his district is built so "they" say, on going to meet the little stenographer from Lickskillet, East Texas, at the train, greeting her cordially, and taking her to her boarding house with exhortations to call on him whenever she gets lonesome or need help. Then he goes to his office and writes her mother, father, aunts, uncles, and cousins, telling them he has met Susie and got her settled in the big, wicked city and what a fine, lovely girl she is, etc. etc. Today I took little Emily Lindau to lunch in the Capitol Lunchroom and introduced her to almost the entire Texas delegation, who kept on drifting by (and whom I enjoyed seeing myself also), and then we spent an hour going out to Robert E. Lee's home and to see the azaleas. Now I shall write Mrs. Von Kalow, who is the guardian of all those children, and tell her how fine Emily is getting along and liking Washington!! Mrs. Von Kalow, incidentally, has a business school and last summer turned over practically her entire equipment and student body to the campaign--their lessons consisted of addressing envelopes and writing letters up in the Sun Room. Mrs. Von Kalow also wants to mimeograph enough copies of the Ross (Dr. A. A. Ross) interview for the entire poll tax list of the Tenth District, and address all the envelopes.

Darling, this has been another volume. You must really sag after reading them!! I am sorry there was a gap of several days when we started sending them by frank. You must have got quite a bunch of them together eventually.

*all my love for always - Fritz*



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