

9:45 Thursday night

Dearest:

To bring you up to date on the status of the engineers: This morning I went to see Belk in the USES and asked him to get out a blind search for engineers, announcers, and salesmen for us. He said he would and had fairly good hope of success and sounded very interested in doing something that would in any way benefit you. He and I settled the status of Meiners. According to Escoe, Meiners had told him that he had clearance to leave this job from the USES. Mr. Belk checked with the person Meiners had talked to and informed me that Meiners did not have clearance at all, that the USES could not give him clearance until it had got in touch with the station and heard its side of the case--clearance is supposed to come from the station but in case of dispute the USES may over-ride the station and give the man a release.

Belk said he did not think Meiners would dare leave without a release because he could not go to work for the Pennsylvania station without one--the station would get in trouble. It looks as though we might keep him until we can replace him.

Jesse, Escoe, and I went to see the local war labor board representative this morning, a Mr. Rogers, and just sort of put our cards on the table and asked him how we could raise these two men. He said the local office did not have authority to approve new classifications or pronounce whether wages were "maladjusted" or not--no authority at all that I can figure out--but to file the application again, this time for a salary adjustment on the grounds that it had been maladjusted" and accompany the form with a letter explaining just how and why it was maladjusted. I am enclosing a letter I wrote for Escoe's signature. I am sending copies, marked personal and confidential, to Brinsdon and McGown, together with a note to bring them up to date on our efforts. The local man, Rogers, says it has been taking about four weeks to get such applications approved but he dare not predict, though he seems to think we have as good a chance of getting it approved as not....At least I can understand all those beefing letters about government agencies better!



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Rogers said not to ask for a new classification, even if new duties and responsibilities were added, because that was coming to be looked upon as an attempt at evasion of the law. It goes to Houston, where they just read it--no action at all--and then goes to Dallas, where either Brinson or McGown does something about it. Brinson had told me that the local office could approve new classifications without going anywhere else but they say they have no such authority!

Enough of that.

Mr. ~~Wroe~~ Wroe, the older one, died yesterday. I sent flowers to the funeral. Kitty May's mother died tonight and I'll send flowers and possibly go to the funeral in Seguin. I had dinner with Margaret Brown last night--quite a party, though Herman was not there. I've called a number of the people I should, Marietta Brooks among them. Dr. Beverly is in the hospital and I shall go to see him soon. Tomorrow I'm supposed to have lunch with Vola May Odom