

April 19, 1943

Dearest:

Today I had lunch with Gene at the legislators' wives monthly luncheon--met the whole lot of them. Mrs. Daniel, the wife of the speaker, is a very refined, delicate, pretty little person. I liked her a lot. Mrs. Larry Brule introduced me to the group and had some nice things to say--she was in charge of the luncheon. I saw Mrs. Hilmar Weinert and she inquired so eagerly about you and asked me to lunch tomorrow. They were really quite a nice looking bunch of ladies. I did my best to make them like me.

Sunday I spent much of the day with Mr. King, and, it being a feast day, could have a drink, so celebrated and had several. He said he had always worried about whether I understood why he had to be for O'Daniel in the Senate race--that he loved you and me and always would and would do anything in the world he could for us. He said at one time when O'D. was governor there was a bill up in which his Company was bitterly opposed to the Standard on some oil legislation, that the House passed it, and O'D. vetoed it, thereby "saving my skin" and, I gathered, saving his prestige with his company. He said he was going to sue the Reader's Digest if they printed the New Republic (or Nation??) story saying he wrote O'Daniel's speeches, because he had never done so once.

I was very much perturbed at the feeling that had about the Speaker. Mr. King and this one-time representative, Larry Brule from Llano, seemed to think most anybody could take him next time--specifically a young man named G. C. Morris, who is now in the Senate, I believe. I told them clearly what Texas and the nation would lose, if they did any such a fool thing. They also thought anybody could take Tom Connally next time, and both said you ought to run and they'd support you against him. I laughed and laughed.

To my bitter sadness, but not surprise, they said Tom Connally had not supported Allred with his whole heart at all--in this confirmation--that he did not want Allred confirmed, at least was not pushing on it. Brule said Mr. Charlie Francis had told him that. You probably know how much their information is worth.

I've really been seeing folks--and having fun doing it. Not one unhappy word have I heard about you, nor one word of any kind about the investigation of LCRA.

Today I have some good news to report!!

First, we had a letter from SESAC accepting \$220 in full payment through April 1, thereby taking off \$100!!! I told Mr. Escoe to get them off a check this afternoon.

Second, Mr. Escoe has five possibilities for engineer, one who is 4F and knows a lot about radio but does not have a license and wants to be tutored by Farmer, the chief engineer, until he is able to take and pass the FCC exam--which will be a matter of several months--about three probably. He will work a part-time shift while he is being tutored, be paid part time, and the shift will be filled in by a University student, of which we have four possibilities. A 4F would be marvelous! Escoe is trying to come to definite terms with him this afternoon. His name is Fleet. The only unhappy thing about it is that he works for Paul Bolton now, but Escoe declares that the whole thing is his idea, that he has been wanting to do it for some time. He works on the news machines for Paul up at the Capitol

Third, we actually received the contracts we had sent to Safeway, signed by L. B. Harris, their Division Advertising Manager in Dallas, for the 12:15--12:30 newscast, 7 days a week, total cost for the year \$3,285.00, to begin April 26, the commercials to be mailed to us from their Oakland office. Bill Clark called me today to ask if the thing had gone through and I was able to tell him we had the signed contracts on the desk--came this morning--and we would sign and return to Harris today. Of course I told him it was the nicest thing that had happened to us since this began.

Fourth, and this is not conclusive, but it at least tickles me--we got a statement from NBC for \$1263. I presume they had not been counting any more against us on their books and this got by some unwary book-keeper. Escoe wrote Barrere airmail-special last Wednesday, the NBC letter telling us we owed \$1873 crossed it in the mail; now if we don't get an answer to it by Friday I shall have him write them again, saying in view of this last statement--and all the other reasons he can think of--we are sending them a check for \$1273 marked in full payment. I am very much in hopes we can by that time also say we have sent their library back to them. The Standard cabinet is due between April 20 and 27 and as soon as it does come the Thesaurus goes back by return mail.

Fifth, Escoe has found a colored boy to clean up from 6 to 8 in the mornings, which should suffice amply, for \$4.20 a week, or about \$19 a month, saving about \$22. He is going to work nearly all day next Sunday and I shall superintend him and get it tolerable clean to start on.

Mr. Turner, the program director, says he is leaving May 5, going to Texas Quality. Needs more money. He'll be gone to Uncle Sam in two months anyway.

Sherman thinks he has found you a good possibility for your patronage job!! A boy released from the Marines for physical reasons.

Sherman says he's a grand boy and can type well and believe he will be interested. I told Sherman we were still undecided about our deal with him, in view of the fact that he'll be joining Uncle Sam so soon and so indefinitely and would have to spend a couple of months learning the ropes. He seemed definitely more interested than he ever has before and advanced a couple of good ideas about the station. I told him you might be down this week end and we'd keep him advised of our thinking.

I've borrowed a car from Margaret Brown for the day and want to go out and see Dr. Beverly. Also pick up Emily and take some Bluebonnet pictures.

All my love,