

May 10, 1943

Dearest love:

You can't imagine how happy my phone call from you Saturday morning made me! Because of it, I shall exert every brain cell to do a good job on all these projects I'm working on....No, of course, the main reason I shall try hard is because I have to do my best to earn and keep my own self respect, but to hear you say that you love me more than you ever did and miss me very much is a mighty good inspirational shot-in-the-arm which makes me want to pitch in and move mountains.

This morning I had the second talk with Mr. Escoe. He said he had spent many hours thinking it over and he'd decided it would be better for the station and for himself for him not to stay. That he would stay for a month after Harfield got here and work with him day and night and Sundays, if necessary, to help him learn the whole set-up and he believed he could save Harfield six months work or rather cram it into one month. Then he will leave. He said he believed it might not work out--he'd been here so long and if he saw Harfield doing something that he didn't approve of he wouldn't be able to express himself on it because he wasn't the boss and he might just get into the frame of mind to just let it slide and that wouldn't be best for his own future or for the station.

I have mixed feelings about it....He is so earnest about his interest in the business, and has been here so long, I can't help feeling a little bad about it. Its sort of pathetic, and on the other hand, I am to some degree relieved, because we'll be wiping the slate clean and starting over and I think that's a good. His attitude was very fine; he said he had never worked for fairer people than you and me and Mr. Kellam and he thought a lot of us, and all that sort of thing, and I was equally pleasant and tried to make him feel, what I did sincerely feel, that he could have been of real value to the station and I was sorry he was leaving.

Dear, do you suppose it would be possible to pay him a week or so extra when he leaves? Naturally, when he goes to another station a month or so from now he can't expect a vacation this year and he certainly has worked hard, without any shadow of not liking to, and this means that he won't get any vacation at all. Let's think it over.

I suggested to him that he might want to be the one to tell the staff he was going and that I would plan a picnic for the first night Harfield is here, Monday May 17, to introduce him to the staff and for us all to hear a bit about what our plans for the station were and what we were shooting at. Don't you think that would be a good idea? Harfield can also tell them then about the coming of the new program director, John Hix. I think it would be a good way to clear the air of any uncertainties and to generate a little enthusiasm.

Now, dear, I shall begin giving you reports on all the things you asked about.

1. Status of new space

As you suggested I asked Jamie to phone Sourry. He phoned both Sourry and San Antonio, found from San Antonio that the PB 200 had been forwarded to Dallas Friday, found from Sourry that he had secured authority from Washington to pass on the project, and Sourry said he would pass it with as much speed as possible as soon as it reached Dallas. It should reach there today and Jamie expects an okay tomorrow or Wednesday. He said he would order the stuff Saturday and that he would be able to begin construction within 24 hours after the okay came--probably Thursday. I also told Jamie to phone Senator the minute he got the go signal, so Senator could tell the manager of the Littlefield Building that he was removing his linoleum. Senator said he wanted to give that to us, but I wasn't sure from the way he phrased it whether it was an out-and-out gift and did not want to ask. It will cost us only 75¢ per square yard to move it and get it cemented down and that's lots better than \$3.66, even if Senator should be paid something for it.

2. Status of Marshall and Alabama money

I believe that I have around \$400 in my special account in the Marshall National Bank. I had \$600 and wrote Sam Houston that check for \$200. I shall write today and find out for sure. As I probably told you, I wrote Uncle Harry last Wednesday, requesting the \$3000 Uncle Claud actually owes me right away, if, now that there is no longer any question of dispute, he is not barred from the Court from paying it and asked how soon could expect payment on the rest. No answer yet. Would you like to ask Rushton to have his attorneys query Uncle Harry or shall I write them to do so?....I don't want to re-raise the question of how much we owe them, however.

3. Status of radio equipment

Have ordered a 30 Series De Luxe console from Gates Sound Reproducing Systems, price \$850, supposed to be delivered within 60 to 90 days. Both Escoe and Farmer said this was what they wanted for sure and that the supply would not last very long, so I instructed Escoe to go on and order it, thinking if Harfield said it wasn't the thing we could cancel it....and 90 days is a long time to wait. I sent the pamphlet describing it to Harfield. About three weeks ago we ordered two microphones which should be here any day now. Total cost was \$55. We still need an analyzer, cost about \$75, and we have ordered \$10 worth of miscellaneous material which has not come yet and has not been paid for therefore. To fix up our transcription apparatus, we need: two pick-up arms, costing between \$30 and \$52, depending on the quality we see fit to get. The labor and all the rest of it can be managed by Farmer. It is also possible we will have to have a limited amplifier when we go on the network; it costs \$319. There is some question as to whether we will have to get the limited amplifier, due to the expected increase of fidelity from the new console--can't get Farmer's opinion on it until next Monday --he is gone on his vacation. He will, I believe, know the answer. Therefore, we need about \$1000 to \$1020, if we don't get the limited amplifier and \$1330 if we do.

4. Furnishings

I figure we need two desks and about seven chairs. We could also use some rugs, but with linoleum on all the studio floors and that really lovely floor in the offices up front, I think we can very well get along without rugs and they are the most expensive item about furnishings. Without rugs, we can do it as cheap as \$175 and go on up

as high as the traffic will bear. I have been nearly everywhere looking at furniture and will be able to give a more exact estimate when I've checked on just what space we'll have in the Brown Building for supplies...that will determine whether we will have to have more cabinets to store things in. We can do this as cheap or as high as we ~~###~~ want and I suggest that we buy what we get good, keep on using J. Mabel's two desks for the time being until we are making money and can afford new ones, do without rug for the present also, but get some colorful maps and pictures for the walls. In other words, get a few good peices and gradually replace the borrowed things and the old beat-up things in the future--not go whole hog and get all new stuff now. And I don't like the second hand stuff I've seen--it doesn't have any oomph.

5. We are getting along fine without Turner. J. Mabel and all the rest are working very long and hard and at a pace that we couldn't expect them to keep up, but I believe he was a termite in the house--rather bad on the morale of all and I'm satisfied that he's gone. Several improvements have been made; first, through the insistence of J. Mabel a meeting was held and definite times were assigned to each of the announcers--Jack Quinn, Janice Long, Bill Hill, and J., so that each one had certain hours he knew he was going on and was responsible for and also so that each (except Jack) had a day off. Heretofore, they had all been supposed to show up for the day's work and then each one was told anew each day what hours he would be on and nobody ever had a day off. Also, I've bought a notebook to keep the commercials in and they are to keep them right by the board in front of them rather than the hap-hazard fashion of keeping them loose and running around madly hunting the next one. We are getting off the Thesaurus today and then tonight we'll give the control room a much needed cleaning up and arrange neatly the essentials of the fellow who sits in there at the controls. Jack Quinn is very good.

6. Mr. Novy

Mr. Novy has decided to keep \$125 on the Capitol (permonth) for two or three months, until he can determine whether it is bringing him any results. That is all that is definite. He does run some, off and on, on the other theatres, but has no commitments to continue. This week he has \$50 on the Queen. None at present on the others.

7. Advertising program

Will have to have long talk with Escoe and see what he thinks estimate should be and how spent. More later.

8. KTSA advertisers on Columbia

Mrs. Johnson is doing this and says she has a partial list but hasn't got all yet as there is much local stuff on Saturdays and static today. Will have it in two days.

9. Senator and Belman sub-contract business

Senator says to wait until construction is actually begun or it is absolutely certain that nothing can stop us from moving and then for either me or Harfield to go to Belman and tell him we are moving. Then if he brings up the subject of the contract and his \$150 monthly advertising to tell him we don't know whether that is binding on our or not and to go see our lawyer--meaning him. It was made between Belman and the co-partner-

ship of Walker, Stuart, and Anderson and Senator says there is some question whether the partnership can pass on its responsibility to the corporation without a legal paper to that effect--and he can find no such paper. Of course, this is just a technicality. So I guess I'll have to go to see Belman about Thursday, when Jamie gets started. I hoped Senator would go to see him and handle it throughout, but I guess I can do it alright.

10. I told Sim the things you said we wanted to put up as collateral, to cover the loan of \$26,000 which Aunt Effie is to make to us, and asked him to start getting the papers made up. He said we could will the government bonds to her, but it would be involved and he would suggest that I just assign the note for \$18,000 (dad's) to her when I have recovered it from the Marshall bank. He said to do all this he would need: a description of the note for \$18,000--or better a copy of it; and a legal description of the house in Washington. I shall get the former from the Marshall bank today; will you please ask someone to look in the bottom right-hand drawer of my desk in the study, in a folder marked "4921 30th Place N. W." and get out the record of purchase of whatever that thing is called, copy the description of our house, and mail it to Sim?

He already has the deeds to the ~~lots~~ lots and to the house in Austin.

I believe that is all I can think of today.

Much love, always,