

May 18, 1943

Darling:

1. Yesterday was Harfield's first day and pretty hectic--just jumping from one thing to another. Last night we had the staff picnic out at Barton's--19 people (all the employees plus a few wives)--and it was a very gay and successful time. At Harfield's advice we decided not to make them a little talk about station plans and schedule of achievements for the future. He said he'd rather just get to know them socially and do that later in a staff meeting. I brought all the food--at a cost of about \$12 and all my points--but I believe it's one of the best investments we've made--think it created a little enthusiasm and esprit de corps. After dinner we lay on the grass and told anecdotes of the funny things that have happened in radio. It's the first time anything of that nature has ever been done in the history of the station and everybody did seem to have a grand time.

2. This morning Harfield and I went to see Mr. Belman about our moving. We simply told him that we would be moving between June 1 and June 15, and we hoped and expected by June 1. On Senator's advice we did not say a word about the \$150 in advertising per month the contract calls for in case we move, and neither did he say a word. He said he was mighty glad to know we were moving, because the noise and disturbance and Hill Billy bands did not go hand in hand with a well-run business school. His attitude was most friendly and so was ours. We want to take these five double glass doors and yesterday Jamie said he probably could use some of the plate glass. So we want to handle Belman in a friendly manner and arrange to get these things as smoothly as possible; the fact remains that any improvements that are attached to the walls belong to the owner of the building (the Wilnot estate) unless specified differently in a contract, and we are hardly in a position to just haul them off without saying boo to Belman or somebody. I knew that one of the typewriters belonged to Belman; I find also that three typewriter tables do and one chair. More stuff to buy!

3. Now you need a good break, I guess! This morning I went to see Bengé and his paintings. We had a good chat about George Sessions Perry, you, Bill Kittrell, his son (Bengé's), and the Tucc. As some of your more efficient advisers have already told you, I am sure, the legislature did pass the bill to permit the Tucc to accept payments on back Tucc taxes with just 25% of the penalty. They lopped off, therefore, 75% of the penalty. I asked Escos to tell me what we now



owed the TUCC and how much of a saving this had effected for us. He did not know and is having Caster see. I will put the amount in the margin if they find out before I mail this. As soon as we lay hands on enough money, let's pay it, shall we? I would pay it now but with \$84 in the bank Saturday I'm depending on collections and the \$490 I have in the Marshall National Bank to get us past this Saturday's payroll. Anyway, that's quite a saving! I invited Bengé to stay with us when he comes to Washington and he says he will and is putting off his trip until I get back there.

4. The account for old debts (prior to Jan. 1, 1943) now has \$55 in it. It came from: \$8 from Austin Shirt Shop; \$2 from Blue-bonnet Cleaners; \$45 from Joe Carlin of El Charro night club.

About the El Charro deal: I have told Escoc to go to see him at least 12 times by actual count, he is always out, when he does see him he doesn't know anything about how much time he bought or anything about when he is going to pay. Last Saturday Escoc, by dint of my perpetual hounding, found Carlin in and got from him the statement that he would give him a check for one month, or \$45, that he didn't believe he'd authorized any more than that and could not and would not pay any more. Escoc came back check in hand and asked me what to do. The account is \$291; if we accepted \$45 ~~in~~ in full payment that would be quite a loss. Nevertheless I told him to go on and take the check--for the following reasons:

(1.) The owner is a Mexican and the business is a night club--of none too substantial quality.

(2.) The debt is about 9 months old--part of it over a year old.

(3.) We have no contract or no peice of writing whatsoever to substantiate our claim that he ordered time for any definite period... he himself says he called up and cancelled the running of the advertising and Miss Sneed says she took the call and started to stop booking him for it but was told to continue the charge.

I had rather have \$45 now than dawdle along any further about it. I hope you don't think this rash and unwise.

Mr. Clyde Rembert just called, is in town, and is coming over to see us in a few minutes.

5. At two o'clock Harfield and I are going over the the Brown Building, take a look at all the partitions, talk about how much furniture each department (advertising, programming, reception, etc.) will need and where it will be placed. Then we will have somebody from each department go over with us--J. Mahel, Miss Sneed, Patt McDonald, and see how the setup suits them and whether some minor changes will make it a more efficient scene of operations for them and what they think about furniture needs, etc. Then I'll take the list of furniture and check all the findings I've already made as to price and place and make a definite budget on it. I can buy it all before I leave. I shall recommend cutting down the number of phones and lines. Mr. Carré the real estate man uses the phone more than one-third of the calls--I think he ought to get himself a private line.

All my love,