

at 1148-& I
don't mean "hours."
23 Oct '44

Dear Harold:

Dam this business of being "in the dark" in the midst of great national events, having a feeling of "isolated" responsibility and, at the same time having to sit, hands folded. And tomorrow night, where will I be, when TD makes his Mpls talk? Down to Red Wing showing war pictures to a lot of Old Wimmen. Again, and again and again. "DAM."

I'm writing you this at home, while this evening's broadcasts and related events are fresh in mind. As you see from enclosed clips the "thing" came to pass, "as forecast" last night by KSTP. And it shore has touched off a national skyrocket--or meebby it is a Robomb.

All commentators gave heed to Joe's stand today, and expanded it to its far flung implications. Fulton Lewis took it and shook it like a puppy might an old shoe. And he went into the "possibilities" of HES collaboration. The Ford News Man--A substitute whose name I did not get--went into the matter at even greater length--Ball was appointed by HES--HES Comdr in Navy--will return and if TD is defeated in '44, then HES will be a strong contender in '48. ~~Kaltenborn~~ *Hester*

QJB talked about the matter of extreme isolationism and "those who want every detail worked out now" (but did not mention Joe) but nobody had any straight analysis as to possible effect. *Kaltenborn reviewed it*

There was some comment as to what Dewey may say in Mpls when he speaks there tomorrow. At ~~the~~ press conference this morning, there was a big crowd of Washington newspapermen, and they asked a lot of questions. Joe was asked if he expected to run for re-election: "I do." As a republican?: "Unless they throw me out." Said he did not approve of FRD's general administration, but explained that while USA could recover from mistakes on domestic front, error in Foreign policy was a step that would not be retraced. *a refuted*

One radio commentator gave some thought to ~~the~~ recent association between FBR and JB. It seems that some Washington columnist, this morning, reported that the deal between Joe and the Demos had been engineered by 'Arry 'Opkins. They asked Joe about that. Joe explained: A week ago, (after he had submitted his 3 questions) he had had a long talk (hour and a half) with FDR, at which Foreign policy was discussed, but not on a partisan basis; said that the invitation had come thru 'Arry. "And I would been glad to receive such an invitation from Mr. Dewey, but the invitation never came," (Exact quote, of Radio report.)

Tonight, for the first time, I talked with Esther, on a "pump" basis--that is, I called her to say that I was writing this letter, and wondered if she had anything that I should pass on. She said that she had not written you today and since I was sending clips, she'd not write. She had intended to give you a few highlights, (radio) such as as I have here included.

KSTP (who is credited with an important scoop 4--Joe--last night) is now on with its news summary: Russians, in Norway (Petzamo, in North) have all of the Nickel mines on which Germans have depended. Rumor of British landings in Norway. *2* subs lost--Herring and Gullett. Ship collision off Hawaii. Debate as to position taken by Joe B continues. Dewey said his Mpls speech would "fill in gaps left by FDR," "he is pigeon holing his set speech on Agriculture, for a later date. Said he did not know whether his views (on Foreign policy) would interest Joe. Joe, in speech at Baltimore tonight, said there was ample constitutional authority, under General Welfare provisions, for congress to authorize use of armed forces, anywhere in the world, to provide for policing, to protect the nation.

But let's get back to my talk with Esther. As I said, I quizzed

her, in an innocent sort of a way, to see if she had any ideas as to your own reactions. She explained that she is still without any info, indicating that you had any word as to recent events. All she told me was that you had heard, via radio, something of Dumbarton Oaks. And she told me that Ed had been very frank^{er} in expressing his indignation as to Joe. I know, of course, what you told Vic--and that is the only "first hand" dope I have, from a source that I consider entirely trustworthy. And that has been my own guide. There is considerable sub-surface criticism of Betty and it was in that regard that The Gal opened a way for me to quiz. She explained Betty's attitude after the convention, particularly her statement that she was "a-gin" the nominee and did not consider him worthy of support. Out of that came our own analysis as to whether Doc Radabaugh was correct in his statement today (see clip) that, if you were available, you would rebuke Joe. And at this point, I asked if any newspaper man had contacted her for a viewpoint and she said, no such contacts had been made--and so far as I know, there has been no public comment as to what may have been your views when you were on leave. And we agreed that everybody, now, should be especially careful not to say anything that is quotable at this time. "If he wants to say anything, he'll say it, and until he's ready to do his own talking, nobody else (except when instructed) should even surmise what ~~his views~~ might be." and there's where we left it.

Had planned to take this down to depot for mailing tonight, but it is too late, but it will be in street box first thing in Morning,

Can't you understand how impotent a feller feels. Mebby all my concern, considering distance and all other factors, is useless--but even so, I ~~am~~ concerned--and sending you wastebasket material ^{at least} serves the purpose of a safety valve so far as I am concerned. And if ~~you are~~ interested, you dam well can't say that you are unadvised as to what the public knows about the situation. I suspect that 1,001 friends are sending you their version of the whole affair, and I hope that this stuff at least gives you the printed facts, as a basis on which to judge these "analyses." And so, don't think the heat (!) has gone to my head. Well, Mah's turned out the lights and is yammering for me to come to bed, so I guess I gotta go.

Got a letter from a friend of George's who is now flying the ~~Hump~~ regularly. I had not heard from him for a long time and had begun to fear that he might have "gone in." But he tells me he had been ill with a faint touch of amoebic dysentery--a danger that already had passed when he wrote. His letter took 10 days, which is pretty good.

I don't think I told you that Vic missed the presidency of the Interstate Conference (UC) by two states. If he is down over the outcome, he gives no evidence of it.

There will be a break in the dispatch of these "reports" since I'll be out of town for two days--mebby three. KNow I am going to Red Wing and Redwood Falls--and a date at Mankato is in the making. Too bad I'm not in position to throw a few purely non-partisan darts. The temptation is terrific. Oh-OH--THE big news. They wrote up our WMO set-up (regional office's operational analysis) and submitted conclusions today. On the basis of that report, I am a super-Dooper--but in patting me on the back, where all other "chiefs" got a lot of "constructive" criticism, they showed their inability to "analyze" by making about 20 erroneous statements as to my work. However, since it was an "E Award" to me personally, I raised no objections--and tonight, just before I left, I dropped on The Boss' desk, evidence that OPA ~~was~~ willing to ~~pay~~ me \$600 more, to work for their ~~SS~~ Paul district office. Wonder will they take the hint. If not, then listen for another barrage of "Well, I resign." I'll bet you I get that re-classification, and \$50 a month more, inside of 30 days. How much? Oh, tin cints--just to be sporty.

Carl Zoller's son / killed in

G'Night.

HANK.

October 24th, 1944

Dear Harold:

My acquaintance, Joe, has completely stumped me. When he left here for Washington, I had hoped he would go back to work and say nothing more, but now that I look back over the whole thing, he had no intention of doing this.

It was his contention FDR went much further in foreign policy last week than Tom, and that made it necessary, in his mind, to support FDR. The whole thing has completely stumped me, and other people you know. Everything possible was done to keep him on the main line.

Last night I talked to Vic, who is handling Wisconsin, and he was most concerned that Ball's statement might put Wisconsin on the border line. If that is true there, it will have terrific effect on border states like Massachusetts, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Oregon, and other. The boys here have been working day and night trying to carry this state, and I believe it would have been done had it not been for the enclosed articles.

I talked to John C across the River last night. He said Wendell had a bad heart attack in Indiana prior to his going to the hospital the first of September. He saw him nine days before his death. Up to that time they had known of no heart trouble. Too much exertion and over-work. His guess was that before election Wendell would have said he would vote the Republican ticket. His guess is that he would not have declared for FDR.

It is my personal opinion that no one could have influenced Joe, --not even the Lord himself.

Ed has been doing a magnificent job. I do not see how he stands it day and night. I think he drives as hard physically, Harold, as you did, but of course doesn't begin to get the success from his jaunts that you got, although they are damn good.

I have kept in close touch with Esther, and the more I see of her the more I appreciate her. She certainly is a real soldier.

ER is at Ann Arbor and working to beat hell, with no time out for play. Marge was down to see him a week ago. I have talked to him about this from a purely social point of view, and he is as mystified as anyone else.

I hope Tom refers to Esther in his speech tonight here in Minneapolis. She is to sit on the platform with them. I am going to recommend that Esther go on the National hook-up, speaking to the women of America.

I am having a hell of a time, for I definitely gave my word I was out of politics, as you know, but it has been impossible for me to refrain from getting in and pitching so I can see that you get at least a fair deal wherever I can contribute my two-bits-worth.

Tom is changing his farm speech here tonight to another foreign policy speech. It is obvious the main campaign issue in the next two weeks will be foreign policy. It is my personal opinion that Tom has gone out a long ways on it -- enough to satisfy me, and regardless of what some say, I have no reason to doubt but what he will carry through on his declarations. It does seem to me, from a personal point of view, there is some question that the other side will carry through in any large part what they have declared.

Enclosed is a clipping from last night's paper, also editorial from the morning paper, and two news stories, one dated Washington, and one by Walter Ridder. I am personally inclined to agree with all of them.

John C. said he felt this thing was doing our cause for the future around the country a great deal of harm. I cannot but help agreeing with him. I think Esther, over the air talking to the women, would be the greatest thing that could happen for us, and we will probably today prepare a statement for release, as a Stassen Committee.

From my point of view, Dunn and Jones have cooperated beautifully in their press statements regarding the whole "Joe" affair.

I am going to try to get all the newspaper men to a cocktail party this afternoon in Minneapolis. I expect to have over Pierce Butler, Julian Baird, and a few others to lay definite plans to give our true and fair side of the picture.

Elliott Bell is the only ghost writer with the party, and, as you know, he is a very close friend of Pierce Butler. He will probably have dinner with him this evening. The only others are Lockwood and Drumm, besides news and photo men, most of whom I know.

1944

Tuesday - 24 October

Dear Comdr. Hassen -

I imagine the first thing I should do is introduce myself again. You may remember me as the fellow who won an award called the "Ex-Governor Harold E. Hassen Award" at St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota in June, 1943. You mentioned in a letter written in response to one I wrote you that I should write you again every year or so - and I'm taking the liberty of doing that now -

Since I last wrote I have been in the Navy myself for about 16 months. I started in July of '43 at the Navy V-12 Unit at the U. of Dubuque, Dubuque, Iowa - where you were an honorary trustee or some such thing, I believe. I remember your picture was hung in one end of Peters Commons - the mess hall. I spent 4 months at Dubuque and after a leave was sent to the Naval Air Station, Squantum, Mass., for 6 wks training as a seaman prior to beginning the December 10th class at the Navy Supply Corps School, Wetherley Unit, Wetherley, Mass.

This Supply School is a unit of Harvard's Supply School - with all of Wellesley College's feminine charm and natural beauty an added attraction for a Supply School. We were kept rather busy but did find occasional time to enjoy Wellesley too -

I received my commission as an Ensign ("Assistant Paymaster", really.) in the Supply Corps on 19 April, 1944 and after another leave was sent to the Amphibious Training Base, Camp Bradford, Va. for training and further assignment. From there I went to Little Creek, Va. - another Amphib Base where I spent about 3 months teaching stores officers & storekeepers training for duty aboard LSM's (Landing Ship Medium.)

About 2½ months ago I was assigned as supply & disbursing officer on the staff of LSM Group Nineteen, Flotilla Seven. The Group Comdr. is Lt. Comdr. W.A. Burgett, USN - a very fine person. I like my job very well, especially because I like this particular type of work. I have 12 LSM's to pay and help with supply problems.

That's my naval career - up to ^{the} present time. It has been extremely interesting - and I can

thank this war for one thing if nothing else - for all the persons I've met & come to know and for the traveling & "seeing" that I have done. (Though I've seen nothing yet that will compare with good old Minnesota.) Now that I've left the states, I miss that state more than ever. We have no other Minnesota men aboard - but we do have a man from North Dakota, who ~~from~~ admits that Minnesota is "God's Country".

Since getting in the Navy, I've done a lot of thinking about just what to do about my future after all this mess is over. I have ~~in~~ wondering if you could give me some advice. I have about 15 credits left to obtain towards my B.A. degree, and my pressing problem right now is to decide whether to obtain them by correspondence courses or to go back to school after the war. As much as I'd enjoy going back to St. Olaf, I feel that I would be much better off to have my B.A. degree complete when I leave the service. Then there's what to do after I have my degree. I once thought of Law School, but am no longer so sure on that. My history professor at St. Olaf urges ~~me~~ me to take graduate work in business or government at Harvard - which, if I could afford it, would be fine.

What I would really like, is some sort of government work. Maybe I sound queer, but I think there's no place I would rather live and work than in Washington, D.C. I'm especially interested in work in foreign affairs, consular service, etc. Do you advise going into such work through civil service channels, or what? So many people tell me "Oh don't get in civil service - you'll never get anywhere that way." That attitude seems to me to defeat the purpose of civil service, but perhaps what they express is true.

In other words, I'm in a quandary as to just what to do and how to go about it. If you find time, I'd like a word of advice from you. I would appreciate it immensely. My congratulations on your becoming a full Commander -

Sincerely,

Bruce Lainger
Ensign (SC) USNR

Supply & Disbursing Officer
L SM Group Nineteen - (LSM 66)
F.P.O. San Francisco, California

25-Oct 44

MEMO--HES:

Well, old Clip, Sniff and Snoop has finished his clipping, has sniffed up, and down the wind and has snooped as far as circumstances will permit, and since it now "time to go to press" I gotta get started on this "re-pot" which may be much too long for your busy situation+

By way of an introductory diversion let me report that on my way down state yesterday PM, I left town via So Robt, and having a little time on hands, stopped at a house out past the W+ St. Paul court house, where (at 4:30 PM) found a coupla olsters in the kitchen, with Vi's young man, having coffee and a spam sandwich+ It's been a long time since I saw either, and my only purpose was just to pay respects+ And is "she" a good politician+ Did not remember "who" and when I made identification she said, "But (name) is a much OLDER person+ The Squash King was thiking on beam, because he asked "how things look" and when I spoke of national business, he opined as how he had Ed in mind+ Anyway, the playe is OK--kitchen clean, and smelled sweet, if you know what I mean+ My suggestion to 'em was that now kids had flew coop, it would be a good idea to chop off rooms, from time to time until they had place down to the size needed--and thus not have so much "house" for Mah to keep+ Mah thought that might be good idea--but Paw allowed as how this is the way it is and this is the way it is going to stay+ O'ly complaint--lack of help+ Observed that truck has some retreds, and those that were no so treated were looking a bit bare, as are all on my means of transportation+ Somehow there was something that could be said for the fall season and coupla elder people, just sorta "waiting"--and having some PM coffee and. . . .

So much for prologue+

If Mr. Patch is uneasy this day, he has good reason+ I did not hear talk last night, being down to Red Wing to show pitchers, but there was a monster crowd--see clips+ And today, the very atmosphere was seething+ Newspapers and radio divided their attention between two stories. The dewey speech--and its "fall" implications--and the sea action involving the fleet in Philippine waters+ First radio flash this AM told of the loss of one carrier--Princeton, I think--and at first we were told that while Japs had lost several, and some battle wagons as well, we had lost a BIG carrier result of air attack and explosion of her magazines+ An hour later, this was supplemented with statament that carrier was a small one (50 planes); that she was put out of action and that finially we were obliged to sink her, after some 1,500 personnel had been rescued+ And now, we are waiting for additional news, for last word was that the battle was continuing+

And so, between the two big stories of the day, my real interest centers, as no doubt yours centers--on the sea action, rather than on politics+ If politics is of any moment to you, when this reaches you, presumably you will have time to check the clips and read so many as are of interest and not old+ But if you are impressed by bulk, bear in mind my purpose is to supply you with "oodles" of background, knowing that you can throw away any useless surplus+ So, let's let the political situation state on the clip, while I go somewhat into detail as to a "personal" matter involving a person whom you will recognize as "Honey+" *General*

What little I heard late last night, on the radio, as to the Dewey meeting, had to do with her being on the platform last night, and she was identified by Ed in his opening remarks+ The Speaker of the Evening had considerable to say about GES adm and the fact that when he went to the Wars, there was competant leaders left to carry on+ So, the GES matter was well presented, and on the basis of its situation when I came to work today, it was satisfactory+

However, along about 10 AM, Honey called me, explaining that she had to make an important decision within 30 minutes+

She asked, would I listen and counsel+ I did--listened and counseled+

She explained that a certain Hot Shot, (from the East) publisher was pressing the idea that she should go on a national hookup, with other wimmen of equal statue, to help out the cause+ That was the ^{her} question+ She explained that she wanted my advice--for why I can't quiet understand, because I sure am no political sooth-see, ^{say}.

Anyway, this is what I argued: By being on the platform, and having pitcher took, with the candy date, she had given them all the ammunition they possibly could use+ She very properly attended the meeting and having done that, it was right and proper that her presence should be announced+ By being present, she had shown where she stood--as was her right as an independent voter+ And with that fact in hand, there was every needed facility to make that fact known, far and wide+ But to go further, at this time would be to overplay hand and probably do more harm than good+ Advised, however, that she proceed diplomatically with those who were urging her on+ Suggested she explain that her hand told her to go further but that her heart, guided by her own knowledge that her husband was always careful not to extent himself too far, told her that attendance at meeting satisfied needs of moment+ Keep foot in door to the extent of suggesting that if developments a week or ten days hense indicate other action on her part was needed, that was river to be crossed when need became more evident+ All of which seemed to fit into her own thinking. However, I explained that I had always had very great confidence in the foresight of a certain appointee with whom I have been associated and asked for 10 minutes to consult him, after which I would call her again+ His reaction was exactly the same as mine, even before I had covered all the details+ And he added that "like the candy date's wife's statement to press yesterday," Honey had never made political speeches, and this is no time to undertake emulation of the Perennial Candy Date's spouse who is always running off at mouth+ A further factor is fact that she had consulted Elmer and Earl and their advice was similar, but not so postive as my own+ And they had no "keep foot in door" ideas+ And the net result was her decision to let things ride as they stood after the meeting last night--at least, for time being+ And I am sure you will agree+

And she told me that she had just received a letter that the writer said "probably won't reach you under Thanksgiving," that being an indication of great distance; and great activity+ In it, the writer said that he had just received a radio announcement of the death of Willkie, which told her that these ballistic developments were still unknown as of the date the letter was written+ And that means, of course, that he couldn't even create thought waves as a guide to her in the present situation+ Kinda tough spot for the gal to be on, but I think she done noble+ It is entirely possible, as you will realize, that before the die is cast and issue resolved, much may be said as to their being "too much wife" in other, and just now particularly hot corners+ And with that as a possibility, the need for her being particularly straight in her thinking is great+

Anyway, that's the way she stands at present+ And if you don't like it--and I can see that all this may not even become known to you until you can exercise ~~second~~ "after the fact" judgement--don't forget that we think hard and done what we thought best for a grand guy+ Because--what matters other matters; and personalities?

And, Sir, may I say to you, as a closing statement, that I am particularly gratified by the fact that Honey asked me for advice+ She'd not have gone that far, if you had told her that I was just a nosey old phart, more to be tolerated and pittied, than anything else+ And as a result, I get satisfaction out of my feeling that, at long last, I have had an opportunity to sorta make an installment payment on a debt that I have recognized for a heck of a long time+ And as that George feller

bends an ear and eye in this direction, I hope he'll say to himself: "You're doing OK, Pappy!" And at least, I tried+

But now I gotta get this into two, three or mebbly four envelopes and thus start it on its way+ I hope the stuff arrives in orderly sequence, so it will be not too difficult for you to wade thru the details\ I shall mark this "very very very urgent," the number of "veries" being determined by the number of envelopes required to enfold the day's business+ So, if you open these, ~~intensely~~, by the number of "veries," there will be some order to the consignment+

But what ever the course of politics, my deeper emotions are for the success of our sea forces--and your personal safety+ After all, what matters it, who wins the election, if we suffer defeat at the hands of the japs+ And did I lay it on the line at the meeting last night+? In the audience, I discovered a woman who was unconsciously twisting her handkerchief,, and she became my "audience barometer+" Every time, she sorta stopped twisting, I poured it on a little heavier and when I got to talking about "rice and maggots on jap bodies on Siapan," I actually found myself searching to drearful things to say, to maintain the momentum of her emotional reactions+ And when I finished, nobody in the audience moved; I sensed they expected more+ I ended an obvious trying moment, by resumption of remarks, i. e.--"If I have made you realize the seriousness of the war our lads are fighting, my work this evening has been fully justified--and if I have just entertained you, then I better had stayed at home+" And one man said: "We're mighty glad you came, Mister+" Then I left the audience in the hands of Alexander, DVA-er, who was scheduled to talk for "about an hour and a quarter on the GI bill+" Poor Alexander+ I was home before he was due to finish--~~if~~ there was anybody there to hear the end of his talk+

And you may be interested in the fact that, at last, the gov't has given us an effective "Manpower" film--"The War Speeds Up"--a lot of ~~ed~~ quick shots from the official war films, worked into the theme that the tempo of war grows apace, creating demands for tires, heavy artillery, larger bombs, trucks, cranes, flame throwers, while the complacent Home Front sits with folded hands, "happy" over the fact that war's end is just around the corner+ And with my own feelings, ~~back~~ up by my own "war" experiences, you can dam well know there is no "sparing the 'crses." And if the WMC don't like their GOP publisier, all they gotta do is say so+ But if you could see the "analysis" of my work, as submitted to my boss yesterday, you'd laugh, because NOBODY possibly could be that good+ But I did not argue the point--just allowed as how any guy that good sure was entitled to a raise--and what could he do but agree+ I still will bet you that ~~tinnintog~~.

I'm mailing you, regular mail, a copy of the 7th (1943) report on the UC ~~repanm~~ program in Minnesota+ Author? Why, hoo'd you expect++ The Old Man hisself+

Hastily.

HANK+

By the Regional Office

Oct. 25, 1944



UNITED STATES ARMY
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
ANN ARBOR

Wed 25

Your letters I think came through a lot faster than outgoing. Got yours dated Oct. 1 about 10th. It was Postmarked Oct. 5. Esther said she had one of Oct. 8. Guess mine.

Dear H.

Nothing much new. Understand the Pres. had special news conference today in which he said job losses had been inflicted very substantially.

Dewey spoke in N.Y. last nite. Walt conceived a brain storm concerning Esther. I talked to her. She is a good smart girl.

The rest you will get from clippings which you get from home and enclosed etc.

We are busy as hell here. This is a good school. The army is involved in a lot of law problems.

Write.

Glenn

M
October 25, 1944

MRS. JENNIE B. ROESSING

RUSKIN APARTMENTS, PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

Mrs. Harold E. Stassen
Minneapolis
Minnesota

Dear Mrs. Stassen:-

As an admirer of your husband and the fine record he has made in public service, both as Governor and now in the Navy, I wish to thank you for attending the Republican meeting at which Governor Dewey spoke last night.

Enclosed is copy of a letter which I have just written to Senator Ball. It may seem strong to you but here in Pennsylvania - where some day support for your husband in the national field must come in great strength - such betrayal is unforgivable. May I therefore ask you to see that this copy reaches your husband when he returns to civil life - or at any time that you deem wise.

Meantime, and again thanks for your indication that you refuse to be the tool of the evil men behind Roosevelt who can in no way save the peace for which your husband is so loyally fighting.

Very Sincerely,

Jennie B. Roessing
(Mrs. Jennie B. Roessing)

MRS. J. B. ROESSING
THE RUSKIN
PITTSBURGH 13, PENNSYLVANIA

Senator Joseph H. Ball
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator:

How could you!

As an admirer of former Governor Harold E. Stassen, I have had some correspondence with you regarding his future, especially at some time in the White House where I still hope he may yet be, inspite of your treachery. For since you have apparently been wholly insincere and now are of doubtful intelligence, I and my friends in and out of Minnesota must ask Lt. Commander Stassen to repudiate you when he returns to civil life.

For your betrayal of him now - at the mere crooking of Harry Hopkins' finger - and after, as a Senator you should know that no peace can last that is not backed up by the steady strength of domestic progress in the United States such as Roosevelt and Hopkins have almost destroyed - such betrayal makes you unworthy of any further association with as fine a young man as Harold Stassen.

Instead you now really do belong with the corruptionists named Kelly, Hague, Prendergast and Flynn who are welcoming you so heartily. Perhaps you think that by 1952, when Harold Stassen's turn comes, the women will forget. But women have long memories.

Yours truly,

(Mrs. J. B. Roessing)

✓ Copy to Mrs. Harold E. Stassen

THOMAS J. COLLINS
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELLOR AT LAW
719-722 THIRD NATIONAL BANK BUILDING
SPRINGFIELD, MASS.

Oct. 26, 1944.

Mrs. Harold Stassen,
Wife of former-Governor Stassen,
St. Paul, Minn.

Dear Madam:-

I graduated from Minnesota in 1910 before I went to the Harvard Law School. I have always retained my deep interest in Minnesota affairs. I have been a great admirer of your splendid husband, for whom I foresaw a great future, and whom I had the pleasure of meeting personally, at a luncheon in his honor at Ann Arbor in 1941 before the Minnesota-Michigan football game.

Because of my interest in your husband's future, I have been dismayed by the effect which Senator Ball's renunciation has had upon your husband's political future. While I am sure, as all your husband's friends are, that he had absolutely nothing to do with Ball's statement, the latter is being interpreted everywhere as inspired by Mr. Stassen for his own devious political advantage. In that connection, I am sending you enclosed an editorial from the Springfield Union of last evening. The Union is a rock-ribbed newspaper, with a long history, and a circulation in its morning and evening editions of approximately 75,000. It is recognized as the leading Republican organ in Western Massachusetts and Northwest New England.

The Union expresses what is the common feeling of people in this locality with whom I have talked. Because many people know of my interest in Minnesota and the amount I had "talked up" your husband, many people have talked to me about the Ball statement. The reaction has been wholly bad, and always involves Mr. Stassen.

I presume that Navy regulations prevent Mr. Stassen from making any statement, but certainly some way should be found by you, through a radio address or otherwise, to repudiate Senator Ball, so that people throughout the country will know that this is not part of a Stassen plot that would destroy your husband's future in the Republican party.

Very truly yours,

Thomas J. Collins

TJC/O
Enc.

West St. Paul, Minn.
October 26, 1944

Dear Harold:

After reading the papers about the big scrap Admiral Halsey's fleet is or was in, I do hope this finds you in good health. No doubt you are somewhat tired from the strain of battle.

I must apologize for not writing to you long ago. However, I always had good intentions of writing to you but somehow passed it by each night.

Just got through listening to Joe Ball on the radio tell why he is supporting Roosevelt instead of Dewey. He sure threw a monkey wrench in the deal and everyone in the party in Minnesota is bitterly castigating him. Maybe he is justified in his stand but I would think that every thing could be worked out properly and for the good of all after the peace program gets under way after election. But of course I am no politician and will leave that to those who know. What do you think of Ball doing what he did, or can't you say?

I went to Windom with a couple of the boys from the office on the opening day of pheasant season. Clarence Hanson, our inspector at Windom took us around. I did some good shooting again this year and managed to knock down about eight birds. Some of the fellows that went along could not hit the broad side of a barn and they shared in the split. So it took some hard work and good shooting on the part of others to almost obtain the limit for four men. The covering was pretty heavy and it made it difficult to make the birds raise. Corn field hunting was not so good due to the farmers raising of hybrid corn which is about eight feet tall. If you don't shoot at a bird the second you see it above the row you're in, you're just out of luck.

Earl Zehnder's nine year old boy was severely burned last week after a blanket he had wrapped around him while playing near a rubbish fire caught fire. He ran away and the clothes just burned off him. He was taken to the hospital and died a day or so later.

Alice Altman is in the hospital at Rochester in pretty bad condition. She has had colitis for the past two or three years and she steadily became worse. The Mayo clinic found out that she had tumors on the bowels and had to remove one. The other is being treated but we have not heard how she is getting along lately.

I sold my Ford coupe some months ago because it was getting too small for my family and have been juggling with cars ever since. I just recently bought a 1936 Buick small eight in pretty good condition. However, today the Commercial Credit Corp., called me up and said that the car was mortgaged. The fellow I bought the car from paid them \$250.00 on the mortgage but it was not enough to cover. I told the Credit Company that if he did not pay up enough to give me a clear title, they should let me know and I would swear out a complaint against the fellow I bought the car from. The Credit man said, no don't do that, we gave him permission to sell the car but he did not pay them off enough. They advised that I would get clear title to the car. I do hope it comes out alright because I do not want to be the goat.

Just got back from seeing the folks and find that they are in good health. Pa was out till dark making ditches with the tractor and his scraper attachment. He sure is sold on a tractor now. Too bad he didn't have one years ago so he could have taken it a little easier. All of our kids are in good health and the baby is eight months old today. She had a little cold and ear infection and seemed to have rheumatism in her legs for a few weeks. She's OK now. Bill has another hernia. I've been helping Elmer one night a week in the store.

Best of Luck Ant. over

At Bureau

October Twenty Seventh

1944

Mayor J. C. Tye
Kearney, Nebraska

Dear Joe:

.. A copy of the letter you wrote to Honorable Joseph
H. Ball is at hand and I heartily concur with the state-
ments you make therein.

.. It is my belief that you will hear Mrs. Stassen on
the air within a few days speaking out for Dewey.

Best personal regards,

John B. Quinn

JbQ:er

196
October 24, 1944

Hon. Joseph H. Ball
U. S. Senate
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

You will not remember the writer but by way of introduction, permit me to say that I was in attendance at the meeting here when you spoke on behalf of Harold Stassen before the primary. I have been a staunch Republican all of my life, believing in the principles of the Party regardless of the too often followed tangents of many of the members of that Party. This, however, has never caused me to waiver in my belief of Republican principles and my support of the Party. I have served several terms as County Chairman in this county and am a member of the Nebraska State Central Committee.

You made a genuine hit with those of us who attended Stassen's meeting in Kearney last Spring. Stassen had a great deal of real support here. Your position recently taken in National politics has, to say the least, greatly damaged the good will which had been built for Stassen in this locality.

I also attended the Convention in Chicago and listened anxiously to hear your nomination of Stassen, only to hear you withdraw him and make one of the seconding talks for Thomas E. Dewey. Your position recently announced in the press can only make me, and I think many others, feel that you did not know your own mind in Chicago. This again is a reflection upon Harold Stassen.

I am much amazed at one of your statements as carried by the press this morning that Hopkins carried the invitation of President Roosevelt to you to confer with the President and that you have received no such invitation from Thomas E. Dewey. Might it be because of your dangling by a thread over the Foreign Policy question that the New Dealers have taken advantage of you for one purpose only - their gain? It seems to me that your claim to be a Republican and the fact that you gave every one the impression at the Convention in Chicago that you were supporting Dewey could mean but one thing - that if you desired to discuss Foreign Policy with him you should have sought him rather than to expect him to seek you and all those people in this vast country of ours who might have some pet question they desired answered to their satisfaction before they could make up their minds that they would support him. So far as I have been able to determine, your sole reason for deserting your own candidate is that he has not announced your Foreign Policy. Is this enough to justify you in deserting

your Party? Is this one issue greater than all other principles of the Party? If so, should you not renounce the Party and use the banner of the New Deal?

I realize that this letter will do no good but I have long since reached the very definite conclusion that this country is a country politically of two major parties and that the men who hold high office in either of these parties should believe in the principles of that party and stand by their guns. It will certainly do the Party no good to support a man who will not stand by and endeavor to strengthen and build up the Party. This "independent" idea is all hooey and is striking directly at the Political foundation of the country. Destroy our party system is to destroy our form of Constitutional Government.

The real reason I write you is that I am sorry to see you exclude a fine, capable, strong young man from Republican politics in Nebraska, a young man who has been willing to forego the service of his Country politically to serve it in the Navy. It has been the thought of many of us in Nebraska that if the Republicans were unsuccessful this Fall we would have a great opportunity with Harold Stassen next time. This, however, will not be true if you undertake to bring his candidacy to Nebraska.

I still remain a Republican, a believer in the Party principles and am deeply sorry to write this kind of a letter. I sincerely hope that you may give some further study to the Party principles and determine whether or not you are in the right party.

Respectfully yours,

J. C. Tye

JCT:HB
Ediphoned

FARMERS' AUTOMOBILE
INTER INSURANCE EXCHANGE



EXCHANGE GROUP
FARMERS' AUTOMOBILE
INTER INSURANCE EXCHANGE
TRUCK INSURANCE EXCHANGE
FIRE INSURANCE EXCHANGE

October 27, 1944

Lt. Comdr. Harold E. Stassen
c/o Commander South Pacific Force
c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California

Dear Harold,

I heard Ball give his radio talk last night on why he is supporting Roosevelt. Hearing him talk made me think back to my days in Minnesota, and of course my next thoughts were of you, so I decided I would drop you a line and say "Hello".

The radio these days seems to be "belching forth" with so much for and against the "Roosevelt administration", that we almost miss the reports of the good work you fellows are doing in the South Pacific.

It sure will be wonderful when this thing is over and all of you will be back home again. I know you would much rather hunt pheasants in Marshall, Minnesota than the Jap fleet in the South Pacific.

Kindest personal regards,

Sincerely,

Frank
Frank Sims

FS:lh



Dewey Foreign Policy Views Assailed by Ball

WASHINGTON, Oct. 26. (AP)—Explaining his decision to support President Roosevelt for reelection, Sen. Ball (R.) Minn., said tonight that "present leaders of the Republican party are trying to stand on both sides of the foreign policy issue."

He reiterated that although Gov. Dewey has spoken for a strong international security organization "both internationalists and isolationists could find comfort and support in what he said."

Explains Attitude

In a broadcast speech, Ball had this to say of Mr. Roosevelt's attitude:

"He wants the United Nations security organization established without delay, before hostilities cease. He wants our representative on it legally endowed with authority to commit an agreed-upon quota of our forces to action against an aggressor at the call of the council.

Leadership Established

"In addition, the Roosevelt administration, by a long series of actions, has reversed the isolationist foreign policy of the United States. It has established American leadership in fighting this war and in developing a world security organization."

Ball said that Gov. John W. Bricker, Dewey's running mate, "is talking the isolationist-nationalist doctrines of the McCormick-Patterson press."

I forgot to mail this the next day because I didn't have any envelopes. Just happened to think that I still had it in my pocket, so typed the envelope in my office. 10/30/44.

Saw Glen at the folks the other day and he was having a lot of fun riding Billie's horse with him. He's getting to be quite a kid.

I see by the paper that none of Halsey's ships were sunk in the big battle at the Philippines. Sounds good, keep up the good work.

Art



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