

Dear H.E.S.

Fri. Nov. 24
[1944]

Have finally reached a time when there is time to relax and think things over a little. Not that I have arrived at anything particularly concrete except that the stage is set and ready for the next series of moves which should start quietly in a widespread fashion as soon as possible but cannot start and would be decidedly a mistake until directed from one source which has full authority, decisive power and full confidence, you know what I mean. This is not a boys job now. The promotion stage which was temporary is now over and the solid substantial fundamental building should start.

Walt was a good man when the need was promotion without substantial underlying substance and the problem was keeping things alive and securing the publicity that was incident to being in the picture. He was unrealistic therefore optimistic. Now we need realism and he is a detriment in many ways because his rather immature, ill considered methods scare the conservative element and destroy confidence. And he does not want to quit and in my opinion will not until subterfuge.

You undoubtedly have my earlier letter which gives my psychological diagnosis. I have many reasons to back that on which there is no need

to relate.

To arm him with a letter containing any statement of intention was not wise. His talk now is "we must lay low for a year" as tho that was a plan rather than an unconsidered indifference as it should appear to be now and he will talk to everybody in that vein and will gloat. Not that the letter so stated but he makes his own interpretations.

He did a job no one else would have done. For that credit is due to the full. Now we have another problem. Vic says he thinks W. will be H's. big post war problem.

Maybe he won't have much effect now so far in advance. However the line should be laid as rapidly as possible for return and control.

Went here from 8 to 4:30. Nice fellows. Hope to fly home tomorrow P.M. back Sun. nite to play with kids and warm over Sunday.

to modern Vic is moving family and all and will have had to sign another vote. He cleared up the 1st one okay and is getting 7500 + expenses in Belief he will be ^{W.S. now} invaluable.

O'Connor had this election ^{W.S. now} bigger better than anyone. Frank Murphy led the D F Z ticket with 462,000 to 641,500 for C. Elmer, Dewey 527, R. 590,000. They 701,000 all in 430,000.

Had vote from Mel. That was too bad. ^(His loss) He may be useful later.

Ed talked to Joe like a brother. I guess I outlined that in my other letter.

Write me Fontaine Hotel Omaha. Probably be here a month.

Do you ever hear of or see Bernhard Follen or any of the boys?

Once with statement in letter to Wall that when swinging in Berlin starts much can be done. Picture is good although Joe hurt - no question as to that.

Hope the boys in Cities Julian Sidney et al will now see the real importance of setting that other side right and keeping it right and playing both sides. Humphrey is a threat but can be handled.

Have seen him. I believe. The blow in their minds is for Ed to go again. Doubt if Judd can be stopped for Senator. He gained in this campaign. Do you think a vote to Sidney, Julian, John Crosby relative to going along on the other side with me now would be out of line for you? Point out the importance? Believe with O'Connor and the Flock I can handle even in absence. Not that they have evidenced any disinclination but probably do not appreciate the deal.

Hope you understood all this. Would like reactions.

Regards,

H. Palmer would be a threat if he numbered into this DFX next time wouldn't he?

OVER

What about some little method of mailing from the meeting? Poised with your letter

interesting. Write all to them. I will direct to this.

Nov 25 Before mailing this I got clipping from
Morgan your citation by the Admiral. nice
going.

What do you think is the object of the
enclosed Pearson stuff?

Snowstorm here tonight. Big wet
flakes. But you would like to see them.

Your family, mine and all the Kelly's
were together Thanksgiving I guess. That
must have been quite a party.

That is all for now, regards,

November 24, 1944

Dear Harold:

It was a real pleasure to get your letter, written November 12th, which happened to be my birthday; so I am now in the select class of "37".

There are numerous suggestions piling in to do this and to do that, but it has been my thought there is nothing to do now but to win the war, and the quicker the better. It has been my belief that your main interest is getting home to your wife and family, and I have made such comments in a nice and friendly way to people who have such ideas as I have referred to above.

I am starting a clippings book with the local newspapers beginning the day after election, including the column writers. It might be worth thumbing over sometime in the future.

Vic, as you know, resigned from the Tourist Bureau and is to become Executive Secretary of the party in Wisconsin. He will know every precinct worker from the bottom to the top. He expects to be there over the course of the next four years. They want him to take charge completely. He will know all members of the Legislature, and they expect him to take three or four trips per year, principally to Washington, and including New York, to keep in touch with what is going on. I will keep in close touch with him and I think that is all to the good.

There is a possibility of John Quinn becoming State Chairman of the Republican Party in Nebraska sometime in the course of the next two or three months, and if he doesn't become Chairman, he will have much to say about who is chairman. That also comes early down there. Things of this kind are only natural after the job some of these fellows have done.

I have written you extensively about the Ball matter, maybe some of which you have not received. I read your letter to Julian and to Elmer, who is now in Omaha waiting for an assembly unit which will go out probably in not to exceed two months. He is looking fine and feeling fine.

I talk to Esther every day or two on the phone. She seems to be fine, as well as the children.

Stanley High is coming through here around December 12th and, as you might imagine, he wants to get up and go, but that will be handled.

You have my assurance that I am devoting my time to civilian life, still making a good many arches, airplane hangers, and barns. I kind of shake my head when I look at our statement of 1941, \$2-million sales, 1943 \$9-million, this year \$7-million, all of them with satisfactory results.

As I look back, the thing that put me in the corner the hardest and the most often, was the raising of funds, but from now on that should be relatively easy.

As far as Joe is concerned, he did not lose the election for Dewey, nor could he have gotten it for him even with a vigorous campaign. He undoubtedly switched some votes from Dewey in Minnesota, but no where near enough to have caused Dewey to lose the State. His reasoning was that his conviction on foreign policy was above person, loyalty, party, or anything else. I believe he thinks he was absolutely sincere in this, but also believe his better half influenced him more than he realizes. It is still my belief he could have done more by remaining in the party and campaigning for it, and then leading the party in Congress and in the Senate in the direction of the foreign policy.

Next week I am going east and will try to get some reactions to his standing now. There is no doubt in my mind but what his potential use in leading the Republicans to adopt a good foreign policy is very markedly decreased.

Herb Lewis is inclined to think he was right. On the other hand Al Crocker is equally convinced he is entirely wrong.

I had lunch with Al Crocker last week. You may bump into him someplace in the South Pacific.

Your citation from Halsey was released Tuesday by the Navy Department and was carried here in both Twin City papers.

Ed is not back yet. Probably will be away until about December 9th. I am certainly happy that he is taking a good vacation.

Believe I wrote you that Ed Jaeckel had resigned as State Chairman in New York without giving any reason and, by his own statement, without consulting Dewey. I am interested in finding out what this all means. If he is actually completely stepping out of the picture, I am thinking it might be very harmful to Tom in '46 to secure a reelection. I guess the boys who play them tough fold up when they are played tough against them.

There are still stories going about that you knew what Joe was going to do, but that situation has been very largely corrected. There are still stories going about that Joe is trying to make a set-up for you for '48, but that, also, is being corrected. On the surface of it, the best thing that could happen to you for '48 ^{was} ~~is~~ to have him campaign for Tom, and to have Tom carry Minnesota, and with those few enlightening words the "sayer to the contrary" feels a little silly.

It is my opinion Joe will settle back in the Senate, get a little newspaper space, and tread water for the next six months. I saw him after the election here, and it is quite natural he feels he did the right thing, but I told him frankly that if he did not get a few better manners, such as acknowledging people's courtesies, and being courteous to people in his office, he would have a hell of a time recouping anything.

3.

I am going down to the Aberdeen Proving Grounds next Tuesday night with about fifteen business men from the Twin Cities-- a very diversified group, and here and there along the way I will have a chance to put them straight if they are wrong on any of the Ball affair.

Personally, I am in No. 1 shape --the best I have been in for a long time. Religiously I take a steam bath and get a rub-down every day at the club. I am watching my diet carefully and I weigh less today than I have in two or three years. I have been on the "wagon" for so long I am afraid I would not even recognize the taste of beer. One bad vice I have left is smoking two packages of cigarettes a day, but I expect to curtail that.

I can't remember whether I wrote you about All The Confusion Joke. It seems confusion is everywhere in business, and even in professional life.

Two doctors were standing in the hallway of a hospital talking about all the confusion incident to new and incompetent help. Just then a girl came down the hall carrying a pan of steaming hot water, and turned into a near-by room. In a moment they heard a tremendous yell. One doctor turned to the other and said, "That is a case in point. That is my patient, and I had left word with the nurse to have the boil pricked!!!"

I expect to see Mel Friday in Washington, as well as Dick Gale. I feel very sorry for them, but I think both made plays which cost them the re-election, which could easily have been avoided, and that they still could have been men of conviction.

In response to the congratulatory letters I sent out, I have received very friendly and cordial replies from Shipstead, O'Hara, Andresen, Anderson and Hagen. Have not heard from Knudson or Pittinger but will drop in to say hello to all of them next week.

The House Caucus was last week and once again was under the able guidance of Dunn and Hall. There seems to be a 3-cornered scramble for ^{PR} Senate term in the Senate. Lightner, Vin Weber and Finstad. I hope Vin gets it. By and large he has done a swell job.

You probably noticed in the sheets I sent you that Brad Heffelfinger was defeated by six or seven hundred votes for the Legislature. That should have a tendency to tame her for awhile. Rose Spencer is really the one who has stayed in there and pitched. I think Burger is getting Doc's fee straightened around.

George Jones is still running for the Governorship. After the first of the year Warren and I expect to spend a little time. Also hope to have a session with Sidney Anderson.

Les Badger has been home several days with a touch of pneumonia, but I understand he is much better.

Will
send
Nov 28.

4.

I am swinging away at a few ^{civic}~~service~~ enterprises such as the Symphony Orchestra, Summit School, etc., in hopes that I can contribute some help so that I may be a little closer with the big ones.

Getting back to Vic. Tom Coleman, whom you met, is 100% satisfactory to everyone in Wisconsin as State Chairman. As you probably remember, he is a very large industrialist in Madison. Cy Phillips, Milwaukee, is National Committeeman. He and Tom work perfectly together. Of course Cy is very popular with the whole party. As we used to say, that is an early primary.

From time to time I will write you as things of interest turn up. I imagine a great many people are sending you a tremendous amount of material.

Just for the fun of it, we are numbering the letters from now on, and this will be No. 1.

In closing, I would like to summarize by saying that people are more or less jokingly saying they are going to run against Ball in 1948, and am I now satisfied the kind of fellow he is, etc., etc., but I think people like Warren and myself should maintain a good sensible balance, push the matter off a little, and not come to any final conclusions until such time as it might be necessary.

I think Joe has done a lousy job of cultivating the press in Washington, and I am going to work on this angle when I am there this week.

I am sending you a clipping from this week's Newsweek which will be interesting to you. You well know most of the names involved, and it so happens those are names of great admirers of yours. I know this from first hand information in the case of Tom Stokes, as do you.

Nan

West St Paul Minn
Nov. 25 1944

Dear Harold.

I'm sending some clippings that Esther wanted you to have and she could not find them at home.

We can see by the papers how busy you have been these last few weeks and from here the news all looks good. Every body here is busy too. Bob is trying to finish his high school in three years so he can enlist in the Navy before he is 18. He has no car this winter so has to be up quite early to make his bus. Billy bought himself a horse this summer and has had lots of fun and also learned a lot. After he got him home to Grandpa's he learned he had a stud. Also he developed shipping fever. He has had a Vet. out and all that has been taken care of now. He has turned out

to be a nice gentle horse Billy found a small buggy he paid \$3. for and painted all up. He also has a saddle and has been having a grand time.

Bill has left Stuklman's and is back at New Brighton again. He just started on the 22nd and he likes it very much. There is such a great demand for workers since Rosemont has opened up again.

Last week early one morning the large Agriculture building at the Fair Grounds burned down to the ground. The whole sky was one big red glow and could be seen for miles around.

Thanks given day was also Yawr folks 45th wedding anniversary. We had a little gathering at our house in the evening. Yawr dad has sold his horses and is not planning on making up his hot beds this spring. He is so used to being active that he

will find something to do when Spring comes. They still have their tractor and all the land.

Our Holiday wish for you is the best ever and hope we will all see you again soon.

We have not had a bit of snow as yet it has been a wonderful mild winter and very good for those ~~that~~ who have to drive back and forth to work.

With love

Bill - Martha

UNITED STATES NAVY
BRANCH PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE
333 NORTH MICHIGAN AVENUE
CHICAGO 1, ILLINOIS

25 November 1944

Commander H. E. Stassen, USNR
c/o Commander THIRD Fleet
Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California

Dear Commander Stassen:

There certainly has been a lot of water over the dam since Abbott Washburn and myself collaborated with you in making the announcement of your appointment to the Naval Reserve nigh on to three years ago. Abbott was in England a long while and is now in Bethesda Hospital near Washington, D.C. recovering from a nervous disorder of some kind.

The reason for this note, Commander, is to advise you that I am to report to Cincpac for Public Relations duties and hope that I can see you out there. I had the great pleasure day before yesterday of having lunch with Jack Cornelius and Bruce Barton of my old company and have a message from both of them to you which I will deliver in person, I hope some time soon.

With warmest personal regards, I am

Sincerely,

Nate L. Crabtree

NATE L. CRABTREE
Lt. Comdr., USNR
Officer in Charge

JULIUS KLEIN, Colonel, QMC
Commanding Officer,
523rd QM Group,
APO 502, c/o Postmaster,
San Francisco, California.

26 November 1944

Commander Harold E. Stassen
COM 3rd Fleet,
FPO, San Francisco, California.

My dear Harold:

I am sure you will be interested in what my brother Ernest had to say about Chicago and Illinois. I am proud that he had a hand not only in the Roosevelt campaign but also in defeating Lyons and Day.

And now I hope that his dream will come true to see Paul Douglas either Mayor of Chicago or Governor of Illinois. As far as you are concerned, there is no doubt in my mind. As I always have said, you will be the nominee in '48, and you will be elected.

It is interesting to recall now our many chats about Dewey and the future, and I still haven't changed my mind.

Please do let me hear from you soon, and take kindest personal regards.

Sincerely,

JULIUS

COPY

Ernest L. Klein
c/o Belmont Hotel
3172 N. Sheridan Road
Chicago, Illinois.
Nov. 14, 1944

My dear Julius:

The local election in Illinois was so disappointing to me because of the type of candidates running for office, that I have been thinking a lot about the possibility of seeking new leadership and thus defeating both the lesser and bigger evils of both parties. The key to the solution seems to me to be our friend Paul Douglas. What a great candidate he would make for Mayor of Chicago! I have been thinking about that possibility and what can be built on the leadership of such sterling character. I have been talking about it to Charlie Wheeler, and he is enthused about the idea. I want to find a way to silently build a foundation for the Douglas possibility. Wheeler would be happy to help in any such direction. The rumor has it that Kelly is considering Martin Kennelly, Mulcahy (the present Sheriff) or Jimmy O'Keefe (Ray O'Keefe's son) as a possible successor. The republicans are talking about Dempsey. I can see no one who can be matched against Douglas. Only today Charlie Wheeler said to me: "Ernest, too bad that the NEWS did not listen to you when you advocated the support of Douglas and they preferred to take Warren Wright and lose with him a losing fight." Wheeler knows how I tried to get the NEWS to support his candidacy in 1942 for the Senate. He would have been elected, I am sure. I felt like writing you about these political thoughts because of your newspaper instinct and experience as a "picker" of winners for public office, also because of your interest in good government for the city to which you will return to live for the rest of your life. In a short time a movement should be organized for Douglas for Mayor. Independent organizations showed in this last national election what they can do to put a candidate over. Who would have thought that Mrs. Douglas and Lucas could win in Illinois with the strong republican trend against them? Who would have thought that Green had a chance to be nearly taken by Courtney and that he narrowly escaped defeat? The independent organization's work is responsible for that, and an independent organization can start the ball rolling for Douglas and put him over no matter how strong the political machines would oppose him. The time has passed when machines necessarily control the primary election. If the politicians of these machines did not learn their lesson yet they will do so when the men from the fighting lines return home to clean up the domestic mess in local government. // With the splendid war record of Douglas, he ought to win by a landslide for the Chicago Mayor's office. With the excellent service record of Stassen, he ought to be the nominee of the republican party in 1948 for the presidency, and there are many others like them to fill in the offices in-between. I am glad that Paul Douglas' wife won against Day, and I want you to know that I have done much for her financially and otherwise in her fight to defeat Illinois' disgrace, Stephen A. Day. Through our brother Bill's office, she received over 3,000 dollars financial aid, and this does not include my own efforts, personal and through friends. I wanted you to know this for I am sure that had you been here and in a position to help you would have wanted me to do just that what I have done. Time passes fast and before we know a year has gone, therefore, an early start is needed for that work. That's all for now. All are well and send love and best wishes.

As ever,
Your brother,

(Signed) Ernest

WITH U.S. ARMY FORCES IN NEW CALEDONIA --- Col. Julius Klein of Chicago, commander of an Army Quartermaster group, has been honored by two generals at this South Pacific Base --- one a citation for meritorious service and the other following his promotion from lieutenant colonel to colonel.

His colonel's eagles were pinned on by Major General Frederick Gilbreath, Commanding General of the South Pacific Base Command, vital supply artery for the Pacific war, in a brief ceremony which came a few days after Col. Klein was commended by Brig. Gen. W. I. Rose, commander of Army forces on New Caledonia.

The commendation was for services Col. Klein rendered while serving as port commander here. He helped direct port activities and aided in administering to sick and wounded during a recent disaster.

A newspaperman for 30 years, Col. Klein was associated with the Hollywood motion picture industry for six years before going on active duty in 1941. He was a war correspondent in Germany during the first World War.

Col. Klein is a graduate of the Army's Military Government course at Charlottesville, Virginia; and has been overseas since June, 1943. Besides heading a Quartermaster group, he served for a while as Army Port Commander.

General Rose's commendation to Col. Klein reads:

"Numerous compliments and letters of appreciation received at this headquarters on your work as Port Commander indicate that you demonstrated efficiency and organizational ability in the performance of a task important to the successful prosecution of the war effort; that during a recent disaster, the personnel of your section exhibited resourcefulness, devotion to duty and untiring energy in administering to sick and injured, which aided in relieving them of suffering caused by exposure and nervous exhaustion; that your cooperation in facilitating the loading and unloading of dangerous cargo in vessels in an efficient manner merited special recognition; and that effort and leadership as demonstrated through faithful, courteous and thorough performance of duty in numerous instances by port personnel are deserving of commendation."

Col. Klein has also been cited by Lt. Gen. Millard F. Harmon, then Army commander of the South Pacific, for services resulting from a disaster in the South Pacific November 1, 1943.

Col. Klein's wife, Mrs. Helen Klein, lives at the Belmont Hotel, 3172 N. Sheridan Road, Chicago, Illinois.

Dewey Defeat Projects Stassen as G.O.P. '48 Hopeful

BY PAUL R. LEACH.

Special Dispatch from a Staff Correspondent.

WASHINGTON—Dewey's defeat makes Harold E. Stassen's Republican presidential nomination in 1948 appear a certainty.

Even as Dewey stumped the country Stassen's name was being thrust frequently into private political discussions. Men and women of both parties who were none too optimistic for the New York governor's chances against Roosevelt, talked enthusiastically of Stassen for the next time.

And Stassen, out in the Pacific, a three-stripe naval reserve commander and lieutenant on the staff of Adm. Halsey, was out of it all. If any Republicans got po-



HAROLD E. STASSEN.

litically hurt in this campaign so they would have to stay on the bench four years hence, Stassen would not be among them.

Halsey's His Hero.

And he knew it. He knows today that he is No. 1 in the private books of many of the younger G.O.P. kingmakers. When he was home on leave last spring he talked no politics. His hero was and is today "Bull" Halsey.

Dewey, the younger Republicans believe, will be a presidential nomination liability in 1948 even though he will then be only 46 years old.

He was beaten in 1940 for the nomination by Willkie and again this year by Roosevelt in the election. But he will be, by 1948, a valuable advisor and will have become seasoned material for a place in the cabinet, and therefore definitely not out of the general picture.

Stassen will be only 41 years

old at spring primary time in 1948. He will have had nearly five years as governor of Minnesota back of him, plus an active war record.

Timber for Senate.

It would not be at all surprising if in 1946 Stassen runs for the Senate seat now held by Henrik Shipstead.

That would be a real primary test because Shipstead, the former Farmer Laborite who turned Republican in time to be renominated and re-elected in 1940, went in on the coat-tails of Stassen, who was elected that year to his second term as governor.

Stassen, born in West 5 April 13, 1907, was educated in Minnesota and when elected governor in 1938 was executive in his state. He resigned in 1944 Navy.

He was in Washington before he went into

asked him why he had resigned.

"Why, I'm much too young to stay out of this war," he answered.

November 27, 1944

Dear Harold:

I have been going through old clothes, note books, etc., and found the enclosed clipping from Time magazine, which you probably have seen. I still think it is true. Also am enclosing an August column by Danton Walker. This thing is not going on, and will not go on as far as I can stop it.

I have now received very cordial and nice letters from all our Congressmen. They have all gone more than out of their way to invite me to see them when I am in Washington.

This morning I have a letter from Lev Salt, the guy who followed you in the Conference. It reads as follows:

"Thanks ever so much for your letter about the election, and what you said. I appreciated it.

"I had hoped the last three days we were going to be able to carry M. for Tom Dewey. I was worried and began to lose hope at that time. On the other hand I felt that our candidate for Governor had been growing stronger and stronger. So you will see how erroneous I was in my judgment. I was too close to one side of the picture. Our earlier poll disclosed the fact it would be a 50-50 fight.

"FDR accomplished just the results this year that he did four years ago by coming in here in the last three days and making a cracking good speech.

"When you write Harold, give him my best. I will be very interested in getting his reaction to the whole election. I am awfully sorry you lost two good Congressmen. I read about it in Time Magazine. It is the result of a determined sweep.

"When you come to Boston I do hope you will give me a little advance notice, and I will have Henry Minot and you for lunch with me. If you want a place to sleep, let me know, and I will be delighted to have you spend the night at my house.

"With kindest personal regards, I am

Yours Sincerely,

L.S

This is one of the nicest letters I have received and it kind of starts the wheels going around in my mind, but don't worry, they are not greased, so they won't go far at this time, but it will be followed up.

Nothing particular has happened here the last two or three days. I have written you that Ed is not home yet and Badger is still sick with the flu.

One hears little or nothing about the Ball incident now. People are talking more about Gallagher and Starkey than any other one thing.

The departments up at the Capitol seem to be in excellent condition, and I think the boys are clicking -- not as spectacularly as when you were here, but they are in there pitching every day and doing a good job.

Burger and I have been trying to catch up and are getting in that position. We have the Judd Broadcast all paid for, and with exception of \$5000.00 note at the bank which we have funds in sight for, all bills of every kind are paid. Anytime we start anything again, be it civic, political or otherwise, we will start with a clean fresh slate, and, I hope, with a fair reputation.

I loaned Vic Johnson \$500.00 to get his bills paid up around here, so he can move to Wisconsin with a clean slate, and when I gave him the \$500.00 I added to it a damn good lecture. He is getting along in years and should start saving his money, and I hope it did some good.

I am satisfied, Harold, that fellows like John Quinn, Vic, Warren, and others, would go to hell and back for you. They do not feel the same about Joe. The unforgivable thing about Joe's actions was that when we at least tried to do everything for him, he did not consult one of us, including Ed, before jumping off the deep end. I think Warren feels this more keenly than anyone else.

Tomorrow night, Tuesday, I am leaving for ^atwelve day trip on business. Will pick up some information along the line. From a purely curiosity point of view, if it happens to turn up easily, I would like to know why Jaeckel resigned in New York

Walter R. who writes me regularly from D.C. says the boys are circulating the story that we had Joe do what he did intentionally, but he says none of the newspaper men believe that story.

I have asked Klingman to see that all items of interest are clipped and sent to you.



DAVID J. WINTON
2600 FOSHAY TOWER
MINNEAPOLIS

November 28, 1944

Dear Commander:

Now that the election is over I thought I'd drop you a line as a person with not much party affiliation about one phase of the contest that really touches you.

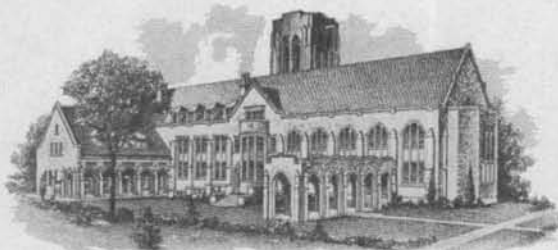
I had lunch with Joe Ball a few days before he made his statement in connection with backing the President. Of course, I had nothing to do with what he did, but I think you will be interested and glad to know how he felt at that critical time of tension. First, he realized clearly that his political future might easily be sacrificed by the move he made. This didn't seem to concern him too much. Second, and really first in his mind, he was very much concerned about how it might affect you, for he has a very deep feeling of personal loyalty to you, of which you are aware. I think this feeling of loyalty made the decision very difficult, and I thought you would like to know about it.

As things have turned out, neither your political future nor Joe's political future was jeopardized. Quite the contrary.

I'm sending him a copy of this letter and I hope you'll be back before too long. The State needs you too.

David J. Winton

Harold E. Stassen
Commander, U.S.N.R.
Staff Commander, Third Fleet
c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California



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Evanston, Illinois

28 November 1944

Lt. Com. Harold E. Stassen
744 Stewart Lane
South Saint Paul, Minn.

Dear Brother Stassen:

It would be appreciated very much if we could obtain a timely picture of you for the next issue of **THE RECORD**. We would like something that would indicate your service in the South Pacific.

I hope that you have been receiving **THE RECORD** as we have been carrying stories about you. If you would give us your military address we could send the magazine directly to you. I hope your family has been able to get it to you some way or you have seen other members' copies over there. The magazine is not supposed to be forwarded but we can send it directly overseas if we have the addresses.

I missed you by a few days in the South Pacific. I was editing Admiral Halsey's SOPAC PRESS in Noumea for several months and was using a desk in the Flag Secretary's office until August 1. On the 6th (1943) I flew to Sydney and later went on duty in New Zealand for the second time. I was with Admiral Halsey's staff for more than a year. I ended up in the hospital in New Caledonia in October, 1943, and no doubt was there when you were in the Flag Secretary's office. I finally came back to the States and am now back with **THE RECORD**, after 20 months in the South Pacific.

If you can provide a picture soon, it ^{would} reach us in time for the next **RECORD**.

Fraternally yours,

Don M. Gable
Associate Editor
Ex. Lt. (jg) USNR
Ohio Delta '35

Ens. B.V. LeVander USNR
LST 573
APO San Francisco Cal.

29 November 1944
In The Pacific

Dear Chief:

Along about the 15th of September I came very near to seeing you--we missed you by about two days I understand. I kept my eyes glued to the glasses for several days and daily got the ships present list but no luck. At this spot I did run into Grant and we spent a most pleasant Sunday afternoon and evening together. He pulled out next day. At this same spot I ran into Bick Guinan who is now a Lt. and in the communications set up. He has gained some weight and is raising a moustache otherwise much the same. In addition to these friends I met up with about ten classmates from Harvard days so we did have us a pretty fine time. I was extremely sorry to miss you.

We were in on the Philippine campaign--our first action. To one as experienced as yourself it wouldn't have seemed rugged--it was plenty for me. We hadn't been in the bay half an hour when we saw the first Jap shot down not over a thousand yards off our fantail. That threw a good scare into us. We saw a number of the rascals shot down in the rather long time we were there. On our second trip things were not quite as bad although far from good. We could also witness our Naval and shore bombardments particularly at night. I have gotten a healthy respect for the Navy. In fact our planes did a superb job, superior in my opinion to the Army's. The natives were very friendly and even during air action rowed out in their dugouts to trade their Jap currency for cigarettes and clothing. I picked up a bolo and a grass mat as well as some currency to add to my father-in-law's collection.

We listened to the election returns until the outcome was apparent and then turned off the set sharply. I haven't yet heard how things went back home. Our mail has been pretty fouled up with our moving around so much. Haven't heard from home since Oct. 28th. I was rather disappointed in friend Joe's statements. I think immeasurable harm was done which will be difficult to repair. I could understand his first position but surely not his final stand. I don't know just where this puts HES in the minds of many people.

My observations, limited as they are, have been that you and your illustrious chief stand very high out here with everyone. By the way I ran into Lt. Commander Van Zant in the Admiralties and had a little talk with him. He said he had lunched with you on his way out. We were all impressed with his aggressiveness. He seemed to get things done where others failed.

I have considered applying for Allied Mil. Government. Haven't been able to gather enough dope on it yet. Some tell me one has to sign up up for three years after the duration. It would be a little hard to take that. What do you think of such a move. They write that Elmer is at Judge Advocate school and wants to go overseas. I guess Marge is pretty broken up about it. Marge sent me a fruit cake which was mighty welcome and came thru in good shape. I understand she has sent you several. She makes them right.

Violet wrote about your trip home and said you were fit as a fiddle. You must get some exercise. This fungus has gotten me so when I go to exercising it flares up and I have to lay off. Vi was very tickled to think her girl came on your birthday.

Earl Berg is now assistant Commissioner of Administration and Ed appointed Lierfallom acting Director. Guess he's getting along o.k. He has a lot of ability and is a hard worker. He is one of the few "balanced" social workers I encountered. I get quite a bang out of seeing Walt Finke's name on Family Allowance correspondence coming to the office. He apparently has done very well.

I am still hoping to see you. Maybe somewhere in the Philippines eh? I wish you a Merry Christmas and a New Year that will again find us at peace. Sincerely
LeVander B.W. *Bernhard*

West St. Paul Minn
Nov 29. 44

Serit Com. Harold C. Stassen
So Pacific

Dear Harold

To day is a wet dreary day up here in Minnesota. The first day that I really did not feel like working. I got my hands pretty cold yesterday. I had quite a pain in my chest last night & to day, but am O.K. this afternoon. Ma & I were pretty busy all summer. We were working hard & feeling fine. So I finally got down to writing to you. It must be 2 or 3 months since I wrote to you. But we're thinking of you all this time. Ester gives us the news every time she gets a letter from you. And are glad to hear that you are ok. It's hard to know what to write, as all the rest all the news. So I will have to write the home dwings. All the rest will be old stuff. You probably heard the same things a dozen times. Ma & I are feeling fine. sleep late & eat often. some times we eat breakfast at 10.30 dinner at 1st lunch at 4. and supper at 7 or 8⁰⁰. But we were pretty busy all summer. I went to market all but 3 onondays every day for 5 months. We always had nice loads, and prices were good. We had quite a lot of early tomatoes. I got \$4.00 to \$4.75 a 1/2 bus. We had from 5 to 20 1/2 bus. at \$3.00 to \$3.50 a 1/2 for a few weeks. We had a few \$60.00 loads. and a few were better than that. We did all the work ourselves. That's doing pretty good for a couple of old cronies. I tried to spread the work out as much as possible. In that way never to much at one time. And got along just fine. Ma alone tied more than 400⁰⁰ of parsley & mint. the past season. I sold most of the hay crop standing. Only put up 3 or 4 loads for our own use. so that was easy. We had a very wet spring & summer. But a dry Fall. So I bought a scoop or scraper for our Tractor and did a lot of ditching. got just about done. On Nov 10 we got a few days of rain, so that job is done. I have got our wood all made enough for a year. I made it all alone. Ma gave me a lift on the few long poles. So now we are going to hire the lift of Reily. Glenn came out last Friday eve & stayed over night & let Ranny Erickson come out Sat. & they had a great time with Butcher

Pete was deer Hunting this year with his Dad & a Couple of other men. They got 2 deer,
I sold our horses a while back. So all we have to feed now is the Cat & the dog

This fall I rented out our pasture to a few Horse dealer he buys horses for fox farms, he sometimes had as high as 16 Horses here. It looks like a real stock farm around here. he still has a few here yet. We have about 2 in of snow now. so he will have to get them out soon. We had a fine Indian summer up to last week. The warmest fall in 13 years. The weather man says we saw your picture in the paper here last week. You were giving Halsey orders - or was he. Ma & I had Thanks giving dinner at Vibitz Thursday (Venison) So Sunday after Church we went down town & had our Turkey Tom dinner at The Stage door Restaurant. It was good.

Thanks giving day we celebrated our 45. Wedding anniver at Bills home. and also Bills 44 Birthday all the family were there but you & we missed you. hope by next year we will be all together again. Or will you be home for Christmas. I hope. Well I think I have written enough for one time. Happy this will find you well & good luck to you

With best wishes for a Merry Christmas
& a happy new year. There
or more so here

Your Dad.

W.M.A. Stassen

1777 So Robert Str

West St Paul

minn



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