



~~Nov. 26, 1944~~

Dec. 8, 1944

To: Commander Harold Stassen:

Dear Sir:

This is my request for your advice and help in my present situation in the U.S. Navy.

It seems the navy is in urgent need for men with Lithographic experience. I have gained that experience by working for Munsingwear, Inc. Printing Dept. and The Jensen Printing Co. of Minneapolis for a total of 8 years. I was commended for my good work and ability by Mr. E. L. Olrich while at Munsingwear. which is a very good recommendation and I have a deep love for Lithography.

Now since being in the navy my Litho. experience has been over looked. I have tried at every station through my Company Commanders to be transferred. but without

success. They would just say your orders come from the bureau there is nothing we can do about it. So that is as far as I got.

I think it is due to the fact that most people do not know what a lithographer is. And I haven't been lucky enough to meet the right person to get the needed help. I am stuck, and surely would appreciate your advice or help.

Inclosed is my request for transfer and a detailed letter of my Litho experience & qualifications also what schooling the navy has given me

I am sure I am much more qualified to work in the Lithographic field in the navy than I am as a Motor Machinest from the little schooling from the navy and no experience

Please do what you think is best I will await your reply.

Very Sincerely Yours.

Raymond Edward Anderson F & M. M.

age 27 Home Address 1206 Jefferson St. N.E.
Married one 4 yr. old girl Minneapolis Minn.

Present Address B&T. 10 Brks. 1021

U.S.N.R.B. Shoemaker, Calif.

~~Nov. 26, 1944~~
Dec. 8, 1944

From: ANDERSON, Raymond Edward, Flc(MoMMO), 871-57-20.
To: Bureau of Naval Personnel.
Subject: Change of Duty - request for.

1. In view of the present shortage of personnel in lithographic work, I hereby request that I be assigned to duties in that field.

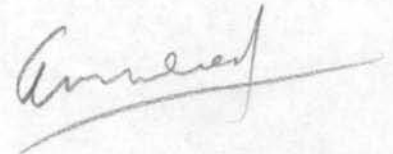
2. I have completed 4 years of evening school work in typography, composing, layout and press work. I was employed in lithographic work for a period of eight years making lithographic plates and operating a 22 x 34 Harris Offset Press, 34 x 28 two color and 22 x 34 four color, both sides Webbendorfer Offset Litho-presses and multiliths. My duties included hand-roll up and work in albumen and deep etch zinc plates. In addition I assisted in the camera room developing, stripping and opaquing negatives and making blue prints.

3. I have completed an 8 week course at the Basic Engineering School, Great Lakes, and an 8 week course in Diesel Engines at Richmond, Va.

Raymond E. Anderson

Raymond E. Anderson

JULIAN B. BAIRD
FIRST NATIONAL BANK BUILDING
SAINT PAUL



December 8, 1944

Dear Harold:

Walter let me read a couple of weeks ago a very interesting letter which you wrote him and which you told him he might show me. Subsequently Esther read me part of the contents of one of your letters in reference to your citation. I certainly want to congratulate you. It is abundantly evident that you have done an outstanding job as your friends knew you would, but it is certainly an outstanding combination of luck and planning on your part that put you in the unique position you have occupied where you could have an opportunity to demonstrate the kind of abilities you have in such a high order.

In the letter to Walter you indicated you would like to have some of us give you a post-mortem on the election as it appeared from our individual viewpoints. You don't need to take this too seriously but I will throw in my two cents worth.

First as to the national election: For a few days after the election, the relative landslide of electoral votes for Roosevelt tended to obscure what on sober analysis was a very close election. Of the plurality of 3,500,000, about 2,200,000 was in the 13 states of the solid South. That leaves 1,300,000 of votes spread over the states in which Dewey had some chance, or, in other words, a shift of 700,000 votes spread proportionately over the other 35 states would have swung the election to Dewey. I believe figures can be built up to show that a shift of less than half of that number, if theoretically placed in crucial states, would have changed the results, but it doesn't seem to me that that is as fair an analysis as the other one.

Right after the election most of the analysts were predicting a strong resurgence of New Dealism with the Hillman-Wallace entourage calling the shots. While granting that the PAC is going to have an increased influence and will make the most of it, I believe that informed opinion is less inclined at the present time to feel as certain that there will be a pronounced leftist movement. Certainly the appointment of Stettinius as Secretary of State and Clayton as one of the Assistant Secretaries could not be construed as moving to the left, as it is well known that Hillman et al wanted Wallace. The appointment of MacLeish as another Assistant Secretary could be called a leftist move but taken in conjunction with the other appointments it probably must be regarded as a sop to the leftwingers. I had quite a talk with Fulton Lewis, Jr. last night and he was strongly of the opinion that Roosevelt was an astute enough politician to realize that he has no strong mandate for a move to the left, as he has had in earlier elections, and that unless severe unemployment or some other new

factor arises he thinks the President will be inclined to move down the middle of the road.

I was inclined at first to believe that no one could have beaten Roosevelt this year, but I am not as sure as I was about that and I am inclined now to think that you could have turned the trick. Unlike Joe, I find no fault with what Dewey said on foreign policy when he got down to cases. Unquestionably a lot of independent and international-minded voters were deterred not so much by what Dewey said or failed to say on foreign policy but rather on the record, which one can't deny, that the Republican Party has been for some years more isolationist on the average than the Democratic Party, with the resultant feeling that a Republican President would be subject to more isolationist influence than Roosevelt would be. I could fully offset that in my own mind by my strong feeling that the loyalty that would adhere to the leader of their party would tend to bring the lukewarm senators along farther in support of a liberal foreign policy espoused by Dewey than they would one espoused by Roosevelt. Perhaps that is just rationalization on my part but at any rate I do not think that subtle argument was as effective with voters as the other one I mentioned. I thought Dewey made a lot of good speeches, although I felt very strongly that he made a mistake in constantly reiterating the Hershey issue, which to me was a phony and a little unfair, and I am sure it struck a sour note with many wavering voters.

Probably the most decisive issue of all was the commander in chief argument. I feel that a lot of voters, particularly women, having relatives in the armed services were influenced some at the last minute to vote for Roosevelt on the theory that after all the war was going well and there might be risks in a change. The Gallup and other polls which showed the largely increased vote which Dewey would have had, if both wars were over, seems to me to bear out the importance of the commander in chief issue.

The other important factor militating against Dewey is a pretty intangible one but I feel nevertheless is real, namely, that Dewey's personality did not stir up any spontaneous enthusiasm as such. There was enthusiasm for certain things he said and the way he said them but he still left many voters, and again more women than men, with a feeling that he was a cold personality, the prosecuting attorney type and lacking a certain spiritual touch. While Dewey came nearer election than Willkie, it was quite noticeable, when movie shorts of him were flashed during the election, that there was less spontaneous enthusiasm for him than there had been for Willkie.

The PAC campaign was unquestionably effective, the proof being that Roosevelt carried every city in the country over 200,000 people, most of them by good margins.

If I were to attempt to evaluate the four things I have mentioned, I would put the commander in chief point first, the efforts of the PAC second,

the international issue third, and the personality factor fourth, but it is quite possible that the order of the last two should be reversed.

As for the way the campaign was conducted in this State, Ed Thye made some corking talks for Dewey, one of them on a national hookup, and in all of his hundreds of contacts in the months before the campaign I think he did everything he could in behalf of Dewey. I haven't much fault to find with the way the balance of the campaign was run in the State. Roy Dunn made one blunder early by getting drawn into a newspaper controversy with Dean Fraser where it would have been better if he had kept his name out entirely, as it let the opposition charge Hooverism, etc. After that one episode he did carefully refrain and in justice to the "old guard" they did a better job of following the admonition of your friends to refrain from attacking Joe Ball than did Vin Webber and even Doc Radabaugh, both of whom sounded off too strong on that subject.

Byron Allen didn't make a strong impression in any way and I do not believe he is much of a future menace. Hubert Humphrey would have gotten a great many more votes in my opinion and is going to be quite a power to contend with in the future, particularly if he decides to run and gets himself elected as Mayor of Minneapolis next year. He has one disability, however, in that he hasn't been able to make up his mind to go into the service and that will probably plague him particularly after the war.

As you know, Mel Maas lost by less than 5,000 votes and I think that can be pretty well accounted for. Mel elected, in spite of everything his friends could tell him, to campaign against Roosevelt in a city that went 3 to 2 for Roosevelt. I do not believe it would have hurt him any more than it did Ed to campaign for Dewey, as people expect a Republican will support his ticket. Mel told me that he had actually seen portions of the confidential reports of the services on the Pearl Harbor episode and that the facts therein disclosed went a long way to involve the White House with a considerable measure of responsibility—in fact he represented that it contained some very damaging material. Mel made a radio speech just a couple of weeks before election, in which for the first time he made these allegations and challenged the Administration to make public the evidence, etc., which they of course refused to do. Mel couldn't produce any proof, with the result that the public put it down to cheap campaign oratory and an unprincipled attack. Not only did Mel's belated attack antagonize many people but it made a hot issue which Starkey had not been able to find, with the result that both of them occupied the front page from that point on. Charlie Jordan, Mel's secretary, who I think is pretty astute politically was sick about the whole thing, as he had kept Mel in Washington as long as possible just so no issues would be created and then as soon as Mel got here he spilled the beans. If it hadn't been for this tactical mistake, I think Mel would have gotten through with a small margin.

The most pathetic thing that happened in this State was the defeat of Dick Gale by the retired street sweeper Gallagher, whose wife

furnished most of his support by working in a cannery while he vegetated at home. Gale made absolutely no campaign at all and even the DFL I understand gave Gallagher no financial support, as they thought his case was hopeless. I think this is a case where the organized PAC vote can claim some credit for the victory. There is an element of humor in the situation in that Gale's friends are supposed to have filed Gallagher two years ago as a straw man to divide the opposition vote and I guess they thought they had picked the weakest possible candidate with an Irish name.

As for Joe, my views haven't changed much of any from those I expressed to you. I didn't see him when he was out here as I was out of town but he tried to see me and I have had a perfectly friendly correspondence with him since. I think he still feels that he did the right thing, but I think he would have pursued a different method if he were doing it over again. He did not know he was going to stir up the hornet's nest which he did and on reflection he must realize that his way of handling it was pretty shabby treatment of you and of his other political intimates in Minnesota. It seems to me that I discern a general softening of the antagonism to him in Minnesota but this may be merely that all the passions of the election are receding. There is no discernible diminution of bitterness toward him among the majority of those who have been active in Republican politics here nor among the business men who for one thing are not quick to forgive his more than half way espousal of the Democratic cause on domestic issues. I understand from two different informants that the press boys in Washington are for the most part off him, as for one thing they are political realists and see the injury he has done to his own usefulness and see clearly the political dilemma he finds himself in. Furthermore, they attribute to him allusions of grandeur and some of his little helpmate's remarks have gained enough currency so that at least they all know who is meant when the phrase "little Abe" is used.

As you know, I do not usually try to put my oar in in matters of political advice, but I confess that I have done my utmost to curb the spontaneous enthusiasm of our mutual friend for buzzing around on your behalf, a subject on which I know you have had letters from others, and I hope by this time you have expressed yourself to the person in question in as emphatic terms as you know how. It all comes of course from good intent, an excess of nervous energy, and an apparent lack of interest in application to the mundane affairs of his own business. He has had his ears beaten back repeatedly by some of us and told that his greatest service to himself, his family and to the general cause is to forget about politics and quit talking to people here and in other parts of the country about it. He agrees rather reluctantly that that is true but finds it next to impossible to act accordingly. He can't seem to realize that the people he talks to know him only in the political field and even conversations with them about the weather will be misconstrued. The whole situation is aggravated by a certain habit which has grown on him with which I believe you also have been acquainted, and it all makes a vicious circle.

I do not want you to misconstrue what I have said or my motives. I am terribly fond of him and I am as much interested in safeguarding his

own real interests as the other interests. I think all in all he did a remarkable job in spite of certain very bad lapses and, if the thing were to be done over again, I still think he was the man to lead the fight against very long odds where it took tremendous courage, enthusiasm, and the ability to make a noise. I am sure you will agree that the situation is now entirely different and Minnesotans should be conspicuously silent. It is plenty of time to start talking when you get out of the Navy and you can decide the procedures. In the meantime there is a great deal of casual chatter the country over on "the natural", which is all to the good.

I ran into Jack Cornelius yesterday and he told me that he had recently been talking with Bruce Barton. Barton told him to pass along to you, and he gave a lot of reasons, that he thought that the very first utterance you make when you step out of uniform would be the most important one which you would make for a long time thereafter. I told him I had no doubt you would think so too but that I would pass it on to you for what it is worth.

There is a new wave of seriousness sweeping the country concerning the war, caused of course by the early sanguine predictions for the early close of the German war fading out and to a lesser extent because of the slowing down of the land operations in the Philippines.

John had the front part of his foot amputated but it is healing up nicely and he should be home within a month. He was lucky as his plane and crew were shot down over Germany two weeks after he was wounded.

I dictated the above last night and while it was being written this morning your very nice letter of November 30 came in. While it perhaps makes what I said about our mutual friend superfluous, I will let it stand for emphasis. It is a coincidence that you raised the same point that Barton and Cornelius had raised. I haven't any genius myself for knowing what to say although sometimes like Earl Christmas I occasionally think I have a good hunch on what not to say. However, I will let the matter percolate and if I ever get what seems to me a good thought I will pass it on. I will pump Cornelius to see if Barton had anything specific in mind and will pass that along if anything comes to light.

Saw quite a little of Elmer while he was home. The military life really did him quite a lot of good. At any rate it took at least six inches off his tummy and, while I wouldn't say he even then had a military bearing, the improvement was notable.

With kindest regards, I am

Cdr. H. E. Stassen, USNR
Staff Com. Third Fleet
c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California

Sincerely,



9 Dec. 44

MEMO--HES

TEXT: Leave unto me, disposition of mine enemies, but, Oh, Lord, deliver me from mine friends.--Two-Eyed SEE, Verse 1. Chapter L+

And in that theme, I confess my sins, chiefly so, if there are untoward developments, you will be advised+. In my(Mine) own defence, let it be said that my Big Worry, before and since election, has been the progress of a certain friendship--as to which I was informed back 6, 7 and more years ago+, In fact, it was JB who first pointed out *the guy who would* be "our next governor," and that was at a time when all I knew was that Dakota has a promising County Attorney+. That happened when I was in WPA and it was at least one reason why I once phoned you to "thrash around in the weeds proyek+" And so, I have always thought that something akin to a Damon and Pythias was in the making+. I've known of course of raffles, but my faith in human nature told me that at the bottom there was mutual regard that was enduring+. And so, I was disturbed when he announced the road he would travel. As a matter of common honesty, I felt exactly as he did as to the canditates, but to me, *even bigger*, was the matter of standing hitched, on the basis of what VC told me was his "general Orders+" And so, I was in a hell of state of mind+

And the results of the election, which I considered a foregone conclusion, helped me not a bit+. And so, on that background, I have written JB nothing as to what I thought of his stand, though I have had occasion to take up other matters with him and have found him, as you would expect, friendly as usual+. But I did hear of one circumstance in which a more outspoken friend discussed with him, the effect on you of his course+. He presented, as I would have presented, the idea that after all, JB was in "this crowd," and his reformatinal activities should be in his own bailiwick, rather than in the camp of the enemy--that however right his decisions might be, his public service would be enhanced, in the long run, by following the program that you had outlined, before you went into service, rather than *what* happened+. And at that occasion, when the effect on your future came up, real tears came into J's eyes; so I have been pretty well convinced that if he has hurt you, he's a troubled man, so far as his own conscience is concerned+ (I hope I'm right thus far, as we approach the confessional+)

Anyway, yesterday after I had talked with Stewart Lane, I wrote JB briefly+. I mentioned no names, specifically denied that what I said was first hand info, but made it quiet plain that I KNEW what I was talking about; that I had the facility to separate fact from gossip+. And then I told him that (1) I had heard that he had written you, which letter you welcomed very much and (2) that there was no thought in your mind as to his action being a "betrayal" of you+. And I told him that much, as what had been said "behind your back" as distinguished from "to your face" statements+. And since the two clicked, I felt justified+. *explained* that's what I "dun" -and don't forget my text+. I should add that I had no information as to whether you felt his course wise, etc; in other words I denied any knowledge in several other respects, so he'd recognize that the two things I did say were factual and "the whole story," so far as I was concerned+. And my background reason is that, as of now, he seems to be "The Winnah," and in that circumstance, it would seem to me that there should be diplomacy, to the end that when, and as you return, the course then will be pliable, rather than unbendable+. And I added, as an aside, that an indication of your present isolation, there was the fact that in your last letter to "this mutual friend" you had wondered as to what happened to Ed in the election+. My thinking was that if he had been expecting this or that, such a statement would be indirect suggestion that you were really

out of touch with the course of current events+ And also, be advised that he, and none others, other than Stewart Lake, JO-Jo of O' Corners, and Les have any idea as to Hank Clip Jernt+

And mention of the Clip Jernt reminds me that I was happy to hear that, otherwise, your info would be even less current+ And so I Heave-Ho, heartily+

Events at "1148" were thrilling, last night+ For some 20 year, we've been getting along with a bed that was our pride and joy back in the days when love was young+ But, while the springs and mattress have served well, the castors have deterioriated, as do all casters+ When we put the bed in my new \$10,000 "pink" room, my wrath wreathed, or writhed, as I observed that the ~~Pink~~ finish was going to hell, in jig time+ Mah opined as how there was no remedy; casters were a war time casualty+ And I opined as how, come hell or high water, the caster difficulty would be remedied, or "my name is not So-A nd-So+" Well, that burst soon gave me caused to wonder+ Mah was right--casters are a war casualty+ But, in defence of my mastery of the home, I shopped around and finially found four good casters, the only difficulty being that they were for a wooden posted bed and ours is of steel--or mebb y just iron+ Anyway, I had a problem of conversion+ Posts were hallo, so I told myself that I would just drive a good solid wooden plug into the steel posts, bore a hole, insert casters, give bed a kick and, in a moment of supreme mastery, proclaim: "There, you see--where there is a will, there s way--and if you had just had a will, everything would have been Okeydoke+"

But, alas, twas not that easy+ After I had carefully measured opening in the posts, I ordered an adequate number of plugs, of hard maple+ So far so good+ With due ceremony and pomposity, last night I assembled Mother and Lois and announced that "we would now fix the bed+" First step was to take ~~guy~~ sleeping equipment apart--and I was so sure of myself that I would not even wait until today+ ~~"The job to do a time--~~ ~~"The time to do a job, is NOW --not tomorrow--No "Mon-yonna" in my course~~ of action+ " So, down came the bed (damned old typewriter on blink again+) Hah, fixed, with rubber band, but it will fall apart again and once more I'll have to cover the floor, to find missing screw+ And if you think hunting for a collar button is trouble, just try searching for a small screw (The metal kind) on a more or less littered pusudo-editorial floor+)

Anyway, we got to the plug inserting point+ Plug was a mite too big, but that was easy+ Sandpaper+ In time, we had plug driven into the hole, a matter of 4 or 5 inches, and then we sawed it off--slick as a whistle+ And to demonstrate my engineering ability, I orated as to how the remedied bed ~~was~~ ^{would be} better than when new, and I hit plug a crack with hammer, opimings as how "that will hold ^a casters until hell freezes over+ " As I spoke, there was a dismal "plump" and the plug disappeared down the hole+ Investigation showed that the hole was bigger, by 1/16th of an inch, just below the collar+ Mah looked and ^{than} Lois looked at Mah, and both knew better out of long experience, to say a word+ And neither had a suggestion, either+

No matter how much I sandpapered and punded, I was a sitting duck, for all my specially prepared hard maple plugs were not enough to fill one hole, say nothing of four+ So we threw the hard maple into the corner and recovered from the basement a piece of 2x4 pine, out of which to fashion a longer, and better plug+ It was an old piece of lumber and, as you might suspect, contained hidden pieces of steel in the shape of old nails, etc., so that added to our troubles+ The one fine-toothed crosscut saw I had was duller than a hoe to start with, and by the time I had cut thru a coupla nails, its condition was pathetic+ But I was on a spot. I had to caster the bed, or admit feet of clay in the presence of my dotting daughter+ And some labored+ Mah and Lois observed that it was 11 o'Clock, 12 o'Clock, and 1 o'Clock--and Mah wanted

to get some sleep+ But the sawing, and the pounding, the whitening with a floppy butcher knife, the boring with a too-small bit, and the swearing and the cussing continued, on and on, until (as is obvious) until far into the night+

At very long last, four casters were added, firmly and in a workman-like manner+ The bed was re-assembled and given a kick, as a result of which it skedaddled across the room+ And never a trace of a mark on that beautiful, piano like surface+ And so, we went to bed+

This morning I overslept an hour, as did all others, this being Saturday and Lois had no school engagements+

Was the atmosphere tense? No sir!-Mah's not that kind!! Breakfast chatter dealt with her difficulties in catching the bed, when she was ready for repose and how, all during the night, every time she turned the bed would sway, to this side or the other, "as if I was sleeping on a cloud+"

It sure takes a superb diplomat to live with the mechanical genius-likes of me+

HANK+

Sunday Evening
December 9, 1944

927 Bellvue St

Dear Harold:

It isn't long until Christmas so I do not know whether this will reach you before then. As usual, I had planned on writing you before in order that the letter would get there before Christmas. At any rate, Bert the kids and myself wish you as happy a holiday season as possible under the circumstances. I heard there was a possible chance that you might come home on leave for Christmas. Sure would be swell but you no doubt will be on your way back before you get this, if you are coming.

We've been having mild weather with the exception of a few days. A light snow fell today and I believe it is getting somewhat colder tonight. We were all over to Bill's a few nights ago in celebration of the folks forty fifth wedding anniversary. All the cousins were there and seemed to have a good time. The rest enjoyed it too and the folks were very happy but of course missed your presence.

A Wayne Morse was elected Senator from Oregon I believe, at the last election. I heard he was from Minnesota at one time and I was wondering, is he the friend of yours that was in charge of or coach of the rifle range at the U when you went?

Venise had a baby girl a couple nights ago. I guess they are both doing all right too. Alice Altman is home from Rochester and has been home for about three weeks. She called Vi the other day and said that she was getting along pretty good. She gained weight so maybe she will snap out of it and be in fair health and able to get around again.

We have been reading the account of the battle of the Philippines and was thrilled to hear of the citation you received. Of course we expected that you would receive one sometime when you announced that you were going into the navy.

The kids are in good health except that the baby has a very bad cold. So darned hard for the little tikes to get rid of the congestion. Still she can be and is happy and full of pep.

A few weeks ago we had Tommy and the baby (Donna Gay) christened at Berts Church. Tommy walked right up to the Bowl and bowed his head over it so he could be sprinkled. We all expected that he would kick up a fuss but he was a regular soldier. He is quite a guy. Thinks he is pretty tough and the other day when Butchie was over, they got in an awful battle. Some real haymakers were flying which knocked him right down, but the little squirt would get right up and go for more.

I took a civil service test for Oil Tax Examiner in October and passed it on open competitive and promotional. My Executive II classification is not a permanent status until I serve six months probation which is up in April. Can't tell what might happen before then, so I'm trying to protect myself for a decent job if something does happen before April. Saw Andy and he says that his brother Grant talked to you when he was refueling your ship somewhere. Andy says he was very happy to have had the chat with you.

This letter looks funny not having proper paragraphs but the reason is I didn't know how much I could think of to write so I conserved space to get it all on one sheet.

Looks like I'm all done now, so will close, take a bath and to bed.

Best of luck old boy and hope to be seeing you soon.

Art

publicity, and channel publicity through from the national office on any legislative measures or problems that would be of interest to them.

My thinking is that research engineers, men- that would have the qualification to study not only social problems but all economic problems and make recommendations to the Republican Party that would be constructive so that the Republican Party would not be on that is "Again everything" as they have been in the past years. The New Dealers make legislative proposals of a liberal nature and the Republicans all rise up in congress and object, which constantly keeps the Republicans in the position of being against any progressive legislation. It seems to me we must over-come that "Again" attitude and commence to offer something constructive. I have given you roughly and hurriedly this thought. Any comments you have to make I would certainly appreciate.

Again Harold, I wish you all the luck in the world. Do not take undue chances. Best holiday wishes for as Happy a Christmas and New Year as circumstances can possibly permit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature, likely "Ed", written in dark ink. The signature is stylized with a large, looping 'E' and a smaller 'd'.

339th Fighter Squadron
APO 15-9
10 December 44

Dear Harold:

Since the last time I dropped you a note we have moved up here in New Guinea - in fact were the first fighter squadron in here so have been here about four months. It has now died down to a lull for the most part composed of "milk runs".

The real purpose of this letter is to get your reaction to a personal matter and to give you such background as is necessary for it. I told you that I had bumped into misfortune on my majority in the states on account of bulk allotments. Over here I landed in a T/O vacancy, but promptly ran into a decision by JCAF that that much of the T/O was abrogated. I was put in here to rebuild this squadron which job has, I believe, been accomplished. So far, I have an Excellent for my first 1 1/2 months service in the army and 9 straight Superiors since that time, including I over here.

I shall be 35 next month and realize I have to go back home and rebuild a law practice which will take a minimum of 3 to 5 years. If I were doing a job here, commensurate with my training, or which I felt justified the personal disadvantages being undergone, I would not feel too badly, but when this is all added up it can't be said that the one justifies the other - especially when my rank at the present time is now held for the most part by men whose judgement and ability is rather adolescent.

I have tried to view this objectively. When we came in, they wanted us badly. That I have had the confidence of my superiors there can be no doubt. In fact, it is not the matter of grade entirely that influences me so much as the disparity between what I shall face when I go home, and the relative unimportance of my job here.

In view of this, I am seriously thinking of asking for release as soon as the German war is ended. You will note I am "seriously thinking" of it but have not come to a definite conclusion. I have, as you know from the past, considerable confidence in your ability to do objective thinking, and would appreciate such comments as you think are appropriate on this matter at your convenience.

This will go to your old address with the hope it will reach you by Christmas. Anyway a Merry Christmas to you and lots of luck and congratulations on your promotion.

Sincerely yours
E.
Jordan

THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

WASHINGTON

11 December 1944

Dear Harold:

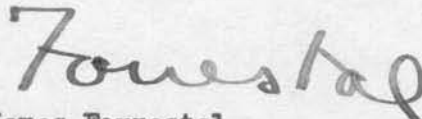
Thank you for your note of November 30th. I naturally am much pleased that you agree with my views on maintenance of the Navy after the war. As I said in a speech in Chicago two weeks ago, I would like to see some of the current enthusiasm put into a savings account to be drawn upon when the inevitable apathy and inertia come up after the war is over.

We are now starting on a drive to get universal military training. Here again I am sure that unless we get such legislation through while the war is on it will never be done. I hold no tremendous brief for my own views but I think the country is entitled at least to have it tried. My point is that if we can have a trial run of one or two years after the war we will know whether it is a wise thing or not. I am sure that if it is an unwise thing the country will quickly expunge such legislation from the statute books; on the other hand the chances of getting such a law passed after the war is over are very slim. And I am sure you agree with me in this.

I was in Minneapolis about a month ago speaking at a war bond rally at the request of Mr. John Pillsbury and I can report that you continue to stand in the highest esteem in that community. I also had a very pleasant visit with Frank Leslie.

Please present my compliments and regards to the Admiral, and with best wishes to yourself, I am

Sincerely yours,



James Forrestal

Commander Harold E. Stassen, USNR,
Staff, Commander Third Fleet,
Fleet Post Office,
San Francisco, California.

December 11
1944

Dear Harold -

Here is a report of my Christmas shopping. For Kathleen I bought a big white teddy bear (I can hardly wait to play with it) and some plastic dishes.

For Glen I got a pair of shoe skates which he will be able to wear for several years. I hope to teach him how to skate. Esther knows that I bought these but she thinks she is going to pay me. Glen has been hinting for skates. I also bought a Hand-McNally globe which can be revised after the war. I put a little note in saying that you would show him some interesting islands and places when you get home, and signed it "Dad".

For Esther I got a peach colored robe and a three piece white and gold dresser set.

For Mother I got a pin cushion for her dresser.

I am sure that they will please and I am having them all wrapped and put cards in.

Gladly would they give up all these pretty things if you could be under the tree on Christmas eve.

Let's hope it won't be too long before you will be back again.

Sincerely,

Marie

P.S. There is almost \$40.00 left which I put into an envelope and am going to give it to Esther.

We are going to the Civic Award dinner to-night. Harold LeVander is calling for us.

NORTHWESTERN *National* LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

O. J. ARNOLD - PRESIDENT



MINNEAPOLIS 4 MINN.

ELLIS J. SHERMAN, DISTRICT MANAGER
1700 FIRST NATIONAL-SOO LINE BUILDING
MINNEAPOLIS 2, MINNESOTA
PHONE MAIN 4331

December 12, 1944

Dear Harold:

It seems like a long time since you left the State House to join the Navy, and I am sure you haven't had many idle moments. I would have liked very much to have seen and visited with you when you were back, but felt that your time was so short that you would like to spend what little time you had with your family, and I am sure that many of your friends felt as I did.

Secretary of the Navy Forrestal gave a talk in Minneapolis at a big bond rally, and he made mention of the fact that you were cited in the recent Philippine action for an outstanding job, which while we expected that type of performance, nevertheless made many of your friends feel very good.

I see Harold LeVander once in awhile, and while they are keeping him extremely busy, he is apparently feeling fine. Don Rogers was in town on a short leave awhile ago, and it was fun seeing and visiting with him. Don is feeling good and is adjusting pretty well to army life, although he thinks he would like to have more action. I suppose it is an old story - when you haven't much action you crave it and when you have too much of it you would like to be able to relax a little more than is possible from the constant strain which must attend active engagements.

As you know, censorship is so strict that we are perhaps the last ones to really know what is actually going on. Maybe that is as it should be, but I have always felt and believe that the American people like to be told reasons for doing things and do a better job when the facts are laid in front of them, and I think that they can always be counted upon to respond.

I felt, Harold, that the efforts of the Republican party before this last presidential election were woefully weak and very poorly planned; and the results were just what could have been expected. Of course, there are a lot of complicated factors in a situation of this kind, but the people wanted some constructive program to tie their teeth into if they were going to make a change and something besides bitterness and accusation.

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Tues
nite
Dec 12

[1944]

OMAHA'S WELCOME TO THE WORLD

HOTEL FONTENELLE-OMAHA

OPERATED BY EPPLEY HOTELS CO.

Dear Harold:

Merry X-mas!

Received yours of Dec. 4th today.

Have not attempted to now conclude specifically upon an analysis to convey to you. You have of course gathered my general ideas from notes etc. which I wrote from time to time.

Personally I am inclined to believe that only a psycho-analyst or psychiatrist could get to the bottom of the motivations of two ^{man and wife} people involved and the influences of one upon the other. I don't know the answer. I think it goes into the realm of egos frustrations and things like that.

I think the letter you received was an effort to justify action already taken and the reasons given were not the real ones and that the action itself when it occurred was more a result of strain, overseriousness and emotion rather than reason. There is a strong element of false virtue, intolerance and intolerance of compromise in the views of others there. Also great impracticability and lack of organized thinking.

Of course I was in Michigan working like hell - at that time and have no first hand contact at all. By letter I tried to maintain friendly but disengaging attitude which succeeded as far as it was possible.

upon return I think public forthright well considered attack on incumbents phrased so as to disagee with statements and attitude in question is the right course covering the question in peoples minds as to participation by implication rather than head-on.

Explanation now of charge after August does not appear sound to me because of definite statement made last spring that he would never support that individual.

Acceptance of leadership and spokesman-ship, knowing the policy laid out with secret mental reservations is unforgivable and gives justification to the harsh and bitter words which were spoken even tho it would have been much better if such words and charges had been withheld.

When questioned what answer can there be but that — made an error of judgment because more could have been accomplished toward the objective in this way (giving the way). Oh well! Probably he lots of time to figure that out.

I don't like the tentative conclusions I am forced to either — not at all.

Walt phoned me tonite. Hatcher has been buzzing about the east as usual, H+ will never change.

You might write a letter to Woyas Morse. This is all for tonite.

Regards

al
Write to me at home until further notice.

Enclosed find a note I had written Sunday before getting your letter.

Wednesday - Dec 13th
1944

Dear Harold -

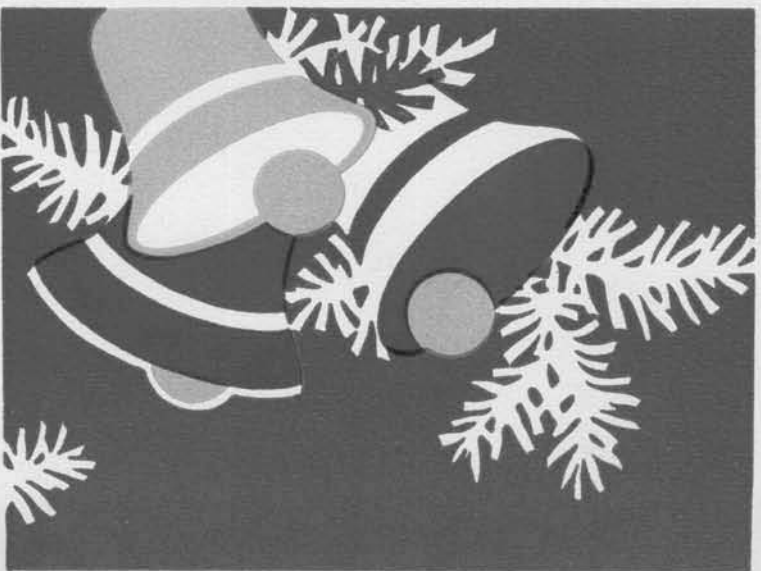
Am so sorry that as yet you
haven't seen Helen. He has moved around
but now is back where he was when you
were here.

I saw Eileen the other night and
knew you would be interested in hearing
how nice she looked. She had on a new
purple dress & had that very mod
becoming. I don't see much of her or
Glen or Kathleen these days. My

growing and mangoes to keep me
quite happy. But as Father and I
disputed very badly here as to how far the
land thin for us. At last the line
is much faster and this operation from
our land is possible.

Merry - many Xmas - had
break - heard. I will say a few on
Xmas Day that perhaps we will be
all together -

Mary B Kelly





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