

January 3, 1945

Dear Commander,

I received your New Year's greeting from Miss McNamara the other day and appreciated it very much. I'm sorry that I didn't write some time ago, but I still have difficulty thinking up things which might be of interest--realizing, of course, that you get many, many letters so that most of the information you get is duplicated.

We saw a picture in the paper the other day of a ceremony in awarding a medal--in which you participated. The picture made you look rather thin--thinner, I thought, than when you were home on leave.

The legislature convened yesterday and today Governor Thye gives his inaugural address. The senate this year will have an electric roll call system just like that of the house. The labor group again goes before the legislature with the handicap of recent disputes--that of the drivers vs. the brewery workers which has tied up the St. Paul breweries for the past month or so. The labor relations board ordered a plant wide election. The drivers wanted a craft election. Then the university mess remains unsettled with a strike voted. The governor obtained a delay pending further negotiations.

I haven't heard much about confirmation of my appointment, but it is not likely there will be much trouble--at least that is what Art Stewart says. Governor Thye also said it should go through without any difficulty. I have an idea that Commissioner Williams will retire at the end of his present term which expires ~~at~~ June 30 of this year. He won't say so definitely but neither will he say that he wants to continue. Eldon Rowe recently resigned to go into the farm implement business at New Ulm. A successor has not been named as yet.

What did you think of the election? It was quite a surprise that Frank Starkey pushed out Maas in St. Paul and William Gallagher, Gale in Mpls. Most of the boys don't think Frank will change any.

The house interim committee report has stirred up considerable conversation, but few expect that any large number of the recommendations will be carried out. The inspection problem is the toughest, I think.

The commission has a number of recommendations. The new occupational disease law isn't working out satisfactorily. The medical board procedure is extremely cumbersome. In one case involving about a hundred dollars in compensation and a small medical bill, the expense of calling the medical board was \$300, not counting the routine expense of the preliminary hearing before a commission referee, etc.

Do you remember Buster Slaughter's brother, Willard (Bud)? They received word recently that he was killed on Leyte. The casualties are terrific, especially in Europe. I'm quite worried as both my brothers are on the western front, one of them with Patton's army.

Mayor Kline of Minneapolis announced this week that he will seek re-election. He had thought of returning to his engineering business, newspaper stories related. ^{not} ~~He~~ Pinky Humphrey ~~is~~ has/announced yet, but is playing the "draft" game. Says he'll run if the people of Minneapolis want good government and wants him to be mayor. Herb Nelson had played with the idea of running--but apparently only if Kline was not to be a candidate. You have heard, of course, that Herb left the Traveler's to accept another insurance company position.

I heard on the radio the other evening that Bob Thompson, formerly of the Dispatch-Pioneer Press, will handle legislative ~~xxxx~~ coverage for KSTP. The papers had to let him go some months ago. Last fall he worked for a time on publicity for the GOP campaign.

We had a scare at our home Dec. 15 when Jimmy was badly hurt in a fall from a slide at school. He suffered a concussion with ^aprobably basal skull fracture. He's okeh now except for some loss of hearing in his left ear. The doctor thinks this will clear up. We hope so. Otherwise everything is fine.

This probably has turned out to be too long a letter. I'll try to write sooner next time and not make it so long. With best wishes for a victorious New Year and that you'll be able to be home with your family--if not during the next Holidays, then ~~at~~ by early in '46.

as ever.

art

Art Ramberg

29 Lake Avenue

White Bear LC, Minn



AIR-MAIL



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

SECOND FOLD HERE

THIRD FOLD HERE

FIRST FOLD HERE

AIR MAIL *Save & Live*

St. Paul, Jan. 3rd. 1945

Dear Gov. Stassen ('Commander' is so hard to abbreviate, I never have learned how to do it)

I have just had a nice visit with Glen over the phone. I called Esther and he answered and said she was out. He seemed so grown up, told me he had a nice Christmas, got everything he wanted (except his dad) and New Years was nice too. I have been wanting to get out to see them but friends who do not live right in town, I have to meet somewhere as the gas shortage is a big item. Esther looks very well and pretty and is certainly keeping up a good front for we all know how lonely it must be without you. I called her up this morning particularly to learn how they all are and to ask her if I could send her the 'United States News' which we like immensely.

Christmas was a sunny day but very cold and today it is 12 below with a promise of continued cold for another day. Coming so late the winter won't seem so long. I expect you would like a whiff of the Minnesota air for a change and we are all hoping you will have it before long.

You have had the news about Sen Ball and the disappointed G.O Ps, their vows to purge him and later on their decision to be nice to him. It was a shock to everyone in the party altho some said they had thought for a long time he was sympathetic to the New Deal. They seem to feel that he was offered something to make it worthwhile to make the change but as yet there has been no evidence of that. I cut out many clippings to send you and then did not, as you must have had them from the family. (I think Esther said that someone close to you was keeping your 'scrap book' full.)

Gov. Thye seemed to say just the right things today in his Inaugural speech, a copy of which I will enclose in this letter. They say his program may cause legislative battles which could be carried over as issues in the next election campaign. Our poor little old man (I hear that he has a set of teeth now) congressman, Gallagher, is housed in a wee room in Washington, with his family, and he is hoping he may have a kitchen attached to his office as that is larger. He has swept streets for 20 years; he swept them well and is honest, those seem to be his two qualifications. I remember when Sen Shipstead became a Senator, he was supposed not to be able to make a set of false teeth that would stay in. I think I could have voted for him more easily than for our man who has a prison record that is not at all pleasant to read, and yet some of our friends came out for him publicly. Croil Hunter and Adelaide Enright were two of them. Addie said that Maas did not pass some of the Bills she wanted passed and Croil said he would rather do business with a smart crook than with a dull honest man. I suppose Mel disappointed him when he could not see eye to eye on the Airways problem. I have felt sorry for Gov. Thye as he has had much to do alone.

Of course you have heard of George Lindsay's death and that of Mrs Milton Griggs, the marriage of Harold Wood's son and daughter of Harold Washburn. There are others which I can't recall off hand.

The President admits rifts among Allied Powers. As I wrote Mr Hoover the other day (he had written a very blue letter not able to see a bit of blue shy anywhere), what can we expect when our leaders are fighting for power and our boys are fighting for freedom. It is all a horrible mess. The German Offensive and their gains in Belgium frighten us but the worst it can mean is a delay in the ending of hostilities.

AIR 32
MAIL

I am sorry for the man or men responsible for the overoptimism which was the reason for the breakthrough. Gen Patton is often in big type on the front page of the paper these days because of his daring and his successes;; he is only 11 miles now from the U.S. Seventh Army.

Montgomery Ward has been taken over by the Government; seven employees, I mean Executives have signed agreements to continue in their posts as employees of the Army management (this is the St Paul Branch of course). Those who would ^{not} sign up have been given positions outside the control of the Government.

Gipsy Smith the Evangelist has been here and gone after filling that big Auditorium to the roof night after night for two weeks and turning away on an average of three thousand a night. I missed just one night, Fred two. There were many thinking people there and so very responsive. I had expected a different type of man but he is a lovely person with a beautiful voice, exquisite diction and much to say that we all need. I know quite well a person who is an intimate friend of Queen Mary's Lady-in-waiting and she told me that the King of England is so very fond of him. (Gipsy Smith) that he always has him stay with him in the Palace when he is in London. He has visited him ten times. Gipsy is so human. I told him that my bump of humor was not God-given for I had to laugh sometimes when it was the last thing I should do, and then explained that one night when he had the entire auditorium on its knees, a very fat woman on the stage next to me, got caught between the seats and the sight of that woman extricating herself and finally, in the process, carrying some of the seats (they were fastened together) into the aisle, was too much for me. I forgot all about his prayer trying to control myself. She said afterward 'Ach Gott im Himmel, my behind always gets in my way'. Gipsy put his hands over his face and, laughing heartily said 'I believe the Lord Himself would think that was funny.'

There is evidence everywhere that people are feeling the need of Religion the churches have never been so filled before and the midweek services. We are all afraid that the evangelical sermons will be taken off the radio, however, and that would be a pity for the shut-ins who can't get the message any other way.

I must leave this open and room enough to give you the latest from Esther. I always have more confidence in what someone else says about my family than what they write for they try to save me from any worry and I don't like it. Also when Fred gets through with the two pages of the U.S. News I will tuck them in.

2 days later. I've just talked with Esther (Glen answered the phone - called her). All is well there. He described your Christmas tree - rather bleak, wasn't it? Was well trimmed with the same old things as we can't get anything new that's attractive. Your family had as truly true & as happy as it could be without you. You don't know how sorry we are for you especially on such days but know that you chose wisely & are doing a super job. We are living in the dining room to conserve seats & even enjoying it - cheap cuts of meat are rationed again. Our marriage seems all good.

I find that Ted, thinking the envelope containing Jits & news was ready to be mailed, wrote it. He was in going into the strategies. Cong. Gallagher chuck the men (in long) talk to much.

Estherville 2 July 42

Way it brings you down from 1945. May it bring you down from 1945.

AIR MAIL



AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

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Secretary-Treasurer, GEORGE MEANY

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Washington 1, D. C.

January 8, 1945

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

Dear Commander Stassen:

I was tremendously pleased when I received and read your letter of recent date. It was mighty fine of you to write me and to extend congratulations upon my re-election as President of the American Federation of Labor. Such a letter as you sent me, coming from one whom I hold in high esteem and high regard, serving our country in the Western Pacific, awakens within me a new consciousness of my responsibility and a demand for service which will merit your continued approval. Please be assured that I will continue to give the highest and best service of which I am capable. Our workers will be appealed to, instructed and called upon to reach new heights in production and to supply our fighting forces with all the material they need in order to win the war and defeat our enemies.

I have followed your work and your assignments with increasing interest. I hope all will go well with you and that you will be accorded a protection which only Divine Providence can extend. Be assured I will remember you to our mutual friends in our movement as you have requested. I will be grateful to you if you will write me again at your convenience.

Sincerely yours,

President
American Federation of Labor

hfc

[1945]

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Jan. 5


Dear Commander Stassen:

I make so bold as to bother you again with one of my periodic notes, although this time with a bit of unofficial business. Since my return here I have been speaking informally with officials in Bupers about the desirability of increasing the volume and the quality of the press news supplied to personnel in the Pacific. Although we were able to obtain a pretty fair quantity of press on the BB62, it was only through dint of stealing the press association reports and processing it into news form. That is an impossible job for ships which do not have trained news personnel. I have prepared, on request, a preliminary memorandum on this situation, a copy of which I inclose here. I wonder whether Admiral Carney might be interested in adding a word of support from his more proper end of the funnel. I would be very interested in hearing your reaction to this notion of mine, which is more properly your concern than mine, I realize.

At the moment I have been assigned as naval aide to Admiral Leahy and am just now digging my feet under my desk at the White House for duties the nature of which are not yet clear. However it seems to promise some interesting work; in any event I hope to be back on the war fronts in a few months from now. My conscience bothers me more than somewhat about my being here while the lads are out there.

The walls here are echoing to the tune of hammers, setting the stage for inauguration ceremonies two weeks from now. It may be an interesting show. Incidentally I ran across your old friend? ^{Melvin} Maas, the retired congressman from your state, and he is now alive in the green uniform of a colonel in the marines, having been recalled to active duty.

Respectfully,





STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
ALBANY

THOMAS E. DEWEY
GOVERNOR

January 6, 1945

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

Dear Harold:

Because of the pressure of my legislative message and budget I have just seen your letter of November 4th which came in while I was away after the election, and I appreciate very much indeed the sentiments you express about Joe Ball's action during the campaign. Naturally, it was a shock to me as I know it was to all of your devoted Minnesota friends but I guess he was taken up on a very high mountain top indeed.

But I do know that Ed Thye and all the others really pitched in and did a tremendous job trying to carry the State of Minnesota and the fact that we did not carry it was no fault of theirs.

You have certainly been in the midst of the greatest events of our time and it must be a tremendous experience. I do hope you will be back with us before long and hope I may look forward to seeing you the next time you are back in the country.

With warm regards and the best of good luck,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Thomas E. Dewey".

TED:LR

Dear H.E.S.

San Jan 7
[1945]

Have been pushed around here better
fast since Tues when I arrived here.

Apparently I will be right in the middle
of the Universal Service, 47 draft, replacement
of indentured 26-29 year olds in industry
and all that stuff. As near as I can
figure it I will be chief, selective service
in the Operations Division, Labor Branch,
Industrial Personnel Division of the
Army Service Forces.

Col. Saw head of Industrial
Personnel who works directly on all
ASFS personnel under Service will
wanted someone to be liaison with
selective service and take part of the
load off him and get hold of me
through selective service and ASD
so apparently I will be a Pentagonian
for some time. My contacts are pretty
high (Hensley, Saw and the special
assistants to the Secy of War and
under Secy.)

Have been working like hell battling
over to the Pentagon and back for meetings
etc. Just got a breathing spell today
time for the first time.

They are pulling in a Lt. (fellow
I met at Ann Arbor and a good friend
from North Carolina) Wm E Timberlake
to be my asst. Talked to Mel and he is back
in the trainees leaving for San Diego thru
the Pacific.

Will see Pitt today I guess.

Pennebocker is back from Europe and will have a section somewhat like mine (different field) in the new set up of Industrial Personnel. I imagine that. Pennebocker and me bureaucrats side by side?

Will try to bring the family down if I have to stay here.

Write care of margin. News from out there is very interesting.

Regards,

Shu

You perhaps know that FDR endorsed 47 legislation as a strap gag and a Universal Service Act so it looks like I will have work to do.

Have not called Joe. Do not believe it would serve any purpose

Carleton College
Northfield, Minnesota
January 10, 1945

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

Dear Commander Stassen:

President Cowling intended the original of the enclosed letter to be sent to you with the booklet enclosed, by air mail. However, I find that postal regulations do not permit sending by air mail pieces weighing over two ounces, and we have therefore sent the letter and booklet by regular first class mail.

Since President Cowling has left Northfield for the East, I thought I would send you herewith a copy of the letter with this explanation. The Mayo booklet will probably not reach you for some time.

Sincerely yours,

Lana Randall

Secretary to the President

SENT FOR INFORMATION OF

January 6 , 1945

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

Dear Commander Stassen:

Enclosed I am sending you a copy of the Mayo Memorial booklet. The estimated cost of the building is \$2,100,000. We are submitting a request to the Legislature for \$1,000,000. We started our formal campaign on January 2 and hope to complete the undertaking by June 30. We have employed Mr. Byron W. Shimp to serve as campaign director during this period. He has successfully conducted the Minnesota War Service Campaigns during 1943 and 1944.

If you find time to send me a few sentences expressing your personal interest in the Mayo Memorial, I feel sure it will be a great help to the Committee.

I think of you often and with greater confidence than ever in what you will be able to do for the country and for the world in the years to come.

Sincerely,

Donald J. Cowling (Signed)

REPUBLICAN PARTY OF WISCONSIN

STATE HEADQUARTERS

HOTEL LORRAINE

MADISON 3, WISCONSIN

Jan. 11 - 1945

Dear Harold:

Just a note. Our legislature got under way here yesterday. Our committee is working very closely with the Republican members and preceding the session put on a dinner for the members of both houses with Tom & I present. We will continue the session. Our office is doing this each week of the session. Our office here at the hotel is used for caucus purposes etc. We hope to build a good party record during this session and are also in the look out for ~~candidates~~ future candidates. We have to get a new state ticket next election - particularly a U.S. Senator & Governor. Tom & I leave for Washington Sunday - we will be there a few days next week. I hope to see Elmer with the delegation. I will attend the meeting of the Nat'l Committee at Indianapolis with Cy Phillips the Nat'l Committeeman from this state - Hope to write you a longer letter on my return from these meetings - Regards - Vic.



STATE OF MINNESOTA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Fifty-fourth Session

LAWRENCE M. HALL, Speaker

SAINT PAUL • MINNESOTA

January 12, 1945

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

Dear Harold:

I have recently received your Christmas greetings. So good of you to write me.

I am pleased to know you are well and getting along so nicely in your work. We are all watching the activities of your fleet as closely as we can. In the office here at the Capitol I have a large map of the section you are in for reference.

We all are hoping for speedy victory and all of you who are taking part in this great struggle have our heartfelt sympathy and good wishes.

The Legislature met again on January 2. There isn't a great deal of change this year - only 28 new members. 105 of this group voted again for Speaker Hall.

With all my good wishes, I remain as always

Sincerely yours,


Roy Dunn

RD:HE





14 January 1944

Dear Mr. Stassen -

Arrived at our destination early this morning, after stops at Comfairsouth, Navy 135, and Lunga. Last night on the way here, we saw a small fireworks display for the benefit of a couple of snipers, on recon patrol over a certain air strip.

Have just about gained my sea legs, and have taken up J.O.O.D. duties in earnest. Am also in charge of the First Division, and hear that it is a good one. Although I still feel as green as a wheat sprout in spring, I feel as optimistic as the sprout does. I am, however, not looking forward to being threshed. Not having had sea duty before, I am finding shipboard life new and quite interesting. The skipper is an accomplished ship handler, and there are many old salts aboard for me to observe in action. There are 19 officers, including 6 warrants, and, as in Comsopac, there is an excess of LTs. There are about 275 in the crew, a large number being PT maintenance and repair technicians under the supervision of the warrants.

Living spaces are roomy, and chow so far is excellent.

As an indication of the sort of scuttlebutt at this base, I heard at noon chow, from a visiting base officer, that a PT sunk the McCauley in error, after being ordered to fire on everything in the harbor in question. I asked whether the McCauley had not been bombed first, and it was reluctantly admitted that she was. I am afraid the question rather mined the juiciness of the story. Although I did not say so, I think I recall that the McCauley was sunk after it was observed that she was not to be saved.

A. T. MILLER

81 East Fifth Street
St. Paul 1, Minnesota
January 15, 1945

Commander Harold E. Stassen
Aid to Admiral Halsey
Third Pacific Fleet
c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, California

Dear Harold:

Just a note to let you know I have been thinking of you.

There is nothing much to write about here. I am certainly working very hard and I think probably I am as thin as you are now. I think one of those old time trips of ours would relax me very much, as I had plenty of fun and relaxation on them, and enjoyed them very much.

I have seen Elmer and hear from him. He evidently likes it very much in Washington.


I see your picture and read very often of you in the papers, only backed by some wild rumor. I am asked quite often what you are going to run for when you get back. My answer is, "I'll bet a hundred dollars that he will run for home and his children, period."

You are certainly making a record for yourself in the South Pacific and I think everybody is very proud of you. Now, take care of yourself, and I wish you lots of luck. I really don't expect a letter from you, as I know you are so damn busy and when you get time to write a line or so it probably is to Esther, which it should be. I have talked with her a number of times over the phone and have seen her in the lobby of the Hotel. She looks well and said everybody is feeling fine.

Again--good luck.

Sincerely,

ATM:RLG



January 15, 1944

Dear Commander,

Just a few lines to let you know the latest developments inasmuch as I mentioned in the previous letter that it looks all right insofar as ~~my~~ confirmation of my appointment is concerned.

The other day Governor Thye asked me over to discuss the situation after Kelm of the Dem-F-L, in a letter, told the governor that he would have to appoint a Dem-F-Laborite to replace one of the Republicans on the commission.

Thye said if he sent my name and that of Art Stewart before the committee the fight would be on me even though I was appointed first and even though when I went on the commission in June of 1943 the commission was comprised of two Republicans and one Democrat.

However, I feel that I should insist on my name going before the committee. In that way I will know exactly where I am. Thye wants me to withdraw--at least that is the impression I have inasmuch as he doesn't want to submit my name under the circumstances *and would like to replace me with a democrat.*

I really shouldn't be bothering you with this, but you appointed me so I thought these developments would be of interest.

Perhaps there isn't much that can be done. The law is plain enough and ^{have} should ~~be~~ been followed when vacancies on the commission were filled. I realize I am not in as good a position before the committee as is Stewart, yet the whole thing ~~doesn't~~ seems to be what it should be.

* * *

The news from the East sure is good these days and we think of you often when we read of developments. Here's hoping that you have all kinds of success and that all of the activity over there is bringing the war to a rapid close.

With best wishes,

as ever

Art

State of Minnesota
Legal Department
Bureau of Criminal Apprehension

ELDEN ROWE
SUPERINTENDENT
M. E. Boerger
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

1279 University Avenue

St. Paul 4



January 15, 1945

IN YOUR REPLY PLEASE
REFER TO FILE _____

Lieut. Commander Harold E. Stassen

Dear Governor:

Probably you know by now that I am leaving the service of the state to go into private business for myself. I have given this very careful consideration. I have discussed it with my wife and we have come to the conclusion that it is time that I get out of public service and try to better our conditions by going into business for ourselves.

I have given the state the best of my efforts and ability since I have been here, and I feel that I am leaving the two departments in good shape. I know for certain that I have brought the Highway Patrol out of a political quagmire up to a very high level. As a matter of fact, it is now considered one of the best in the United States. I sincerely hope that it will continue to function as it has the past 2 or 3 years.

The Bureau of Criminal Apprehension is in far better shape today than it was when I took it over. I told Governor Thye that with all the post-war planning and the men coming back from service that for the good of the state, they should appoint two men, one in charge of each department, because it is too much work for one man. If and when the state wants to have a state police, would place both on the same budget and if they were correlated as they are in some other states, then one man could probably head both departments and do it efficiently. The present setup involves entirely too much work for one man to do a number one job.

I want you to know that it has been a very distinct pleasure for me to have served under you while you were Governor of the state. I have enjoyed working for Ed Thye. If the time ever comes that you decide to enter public service again, I want you to know that you can count on me to do anything I possibly can in my small way. I would give anything I have to have a chance to sit down and visit with you for an hour or so and talk things over, but that is out of the question for the present. I think you well know how close Haskins and I are to each other, and he and I readily agree that there is only one Harold Stassen and we are both 100% for you.

Wishing you the very best of luck and thanking you again for the many courtesies and favors you have shown me, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Elden Rowe
Superintendent

MINNEAPOLIS
STAR JOURNAL AND TRIBUNE

JOHN COWLES
PRESIDENT

January 23
1945

Commander Harold E. Stassen
United States Naval Reserve
Staff Commander, Third Fleet
c/o Fleet Postoffice
San Francisco, California

Dear Harold:

It's been a long time since I have written to you or heard from you, but I have thought about you a great deal.

You are better informed as to the progress of the war than I, so I sha'n't comment on it. Second only to winning the war in importance comes, in my mind, saving free individualism in America in the postwar period. There seem to me to be many disconcerting indications that Roosevelt, perhaps ignorantly and unconsciously, is taking the country down the road that will inevitably lead to statism.

The latest sign is the appointment of Henry Wallace to be Secretary of Commerce. I know Henry intimately and like him. He is a man of good will and good intentions, but many segments of his economic philosophy are completely unsound. Henry undoubtedly believes in a centralized planning agency to control the entire economy. He would call it a form of industrial democracy to have the government, aided by representatives of labor, agriculture and management, assign production quotas to each industry and to each company within an industry on the theory of in this way assuring full production and full employment. He probably would even favor having the government buy any company's unsold products. Such a course would inevitably mean complete price and wage fixing and the refusal to allow any new company to enter any new field without governmental approval. In brief, it would be a mixture of all the bad features of the original NRA dressed up in new clothes. The thing leads inevitably to the corporate state of Mussolini's early days and on to the type of planned economy that was introduced in Germany in the early days of Hitler. Unemployment is ended to be sure, but so is freedom.

On the chance that between sea battles or invasions of Formosa or the Chinese coast you might be interested in reading them, I am enclosing -

- (1) a copy of a letter I have written Lew Brown
- (2) a summary prepared by the Brookings Institution of two important new books
- (3) a clipping from the New York Times of December 24th containing a dispatch by Jim Hagerly on the Republican outlook, and
- (4) a letter to the Minneapolis Sunday Tribune from Joe Ball, and a copy of a letter I wrote him in regard to it, and a copy of his reply.

Speaking of Joe Ball, I have no first-hand knowledge whatsoever as to what lead him to do what he did, either as to his rationalized thought processes or his unconscious motives. All I am sure about is that unfortunately Joe's bolt has injured your chances of being the Republican nominee in 1948. In recent months I have talked to 15 or 20 Republican organization leaders or people influential with the Republican organization from various parts of the country. Some of these people are ardent admirers of yours; others aren't. Without a single exception,

January 23
1945

however, they expressed the view that Joe's actions have reduced the likelihood of your being nominated. I am not in any sense suggesting that Joe's bolt is necessarily a fatal blow to your chances. After the war is won and you can come home and speak in various parts of the country yourself, you may be able to erase from the organization's mind that part of the bitterness that many GOP leaders now have for Joe which they have unjustifiably transferred to you. I mention this because I would be less than candid as a friend if I did not tell you the facts as I see them. In my opinion, Joe's actions have diminished the chance of your being nominated in 1948. You may, of course, be nominated despite the obstacle or handicap that Joe has created for you, but, in any event, I think you should be informed of the current political situation.

Ed Thye is proving a good governor. He is so obviously honest and sincere and conscientious that everyone warms to him. I like Thye better every successive time I see him, and I rate his virtues increasingly higher. However, despite Thye's popularity, the Republican party in Minnesota is not, in my opinion, in good shape. There is considerable disunity and a lack of effectiveness in various quarters.

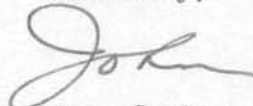
Unless the Republicans find some more appealing and stronger candidate than Marvin Kline, I think the chances are that Hubert Humphrey will be elected mayor of Minneapolis if Humphrey runs. Conceivably Humphrey will be drafted before the primaries. If he gets the White House to defer him, that conceivably might create such a bad public reaction as to prevent his winning. Aside from those contingencies, however, I think there is substantially more than a fifty-fifty chance that Humphrey will beat Kline. Although I don't know Humphrey well, I think he is an intelligent, alert, and attractive fellow, and an appealing vote getter. I wish he were a Republican instead of a member of the Democratic Farmer-Labor party. The strongest argument to me against Humphrey is the crowd that would probably get into places of power if he were elected, particularly if he subsequently went on to the governorship.

If there should be any particular phase of either national or state politics on which you would like to have me help keep you informed, or if there is anything of any kind I can do for you in your absence, don't hesitate to let me know. Anything that you would feel that it was proper for you to write to me as to your opinion about the progress and probable duration of the war against Japan would be appreciated.

I haven't seen Esther for some time, but did see her briefly when Dewey was in Minneapolis. She handled herself extremely well, I thought, during that whole time.

With warm regards, best wishes and all the luck in the world to you, I am

Sincerely,



John Cowles



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