

that he is not on the inside. It seems to have hurt Ken and especially Mary. I cannot really judge as it probably would make me just fighting mad and I would create some sort of trouble to bring it out into the open. He does not feel completely at ease about staying with his present job. After all Nelson is one of the Young Republican Hopefuls and Ken could hardly follow him on his political path. He had bad news about Ed Murrow. He seems to be so near a complete breakdown that the London office is now thinking of sending him back for a whole year.

I also saw Dr. Colm yesterday. He came for tea and was rather instructive. I wrote, I think, that the day after the Dinner with the Germans in the White House Tillich was asked by a Mr. Bean (formerly BEW now Bureau of the Budget) to make suggestions for a Wallace speech, which as now seems certain, was written by Harold Young the fat assistant of the V.P. who let me down twice. The speech was very bad, and Paulus worked hard at it. Then Bean took the suggestions back and after a while showed Colm a second draft which was better but still contained rather dangerous and undesirable things. Both Bean and Colm suggested to call in Tillich again but Young vetoed the idea and you have probably read the result contrary to Tillich's impression. Bean would welcome it if he Tillich were asked to work closely with the V.P.

Colm told me that he was cancelling all his speaking engagements, as they had to be careful not to say anything which could be used by the opposition in Congress to create trouble for them with the Treasury. "The relationship with them" he said "is very bad. Morgenthau is used to have all fiscal matters in his hands. labor belongs to the secretary of labor does it) agriculture to Wickard, the treasury to Morgenthau. They do not need the Bureau of the budget. More and more apparently the President relies on the coordinating work of the Bureau and they have now real power. Colm seems to be an excellent speech-writer and is author of most of the financial passages in last years speeches.

He has been very cooperative with the USSA and will speak. The radio auditions went very badly and I am ashamed that Mrs. R. had to spend the whole afternoon on such a fruitless effort. The kids, were not good enough. The young worker Jim had sent had no idea of anything, just wanted a job and good money, had nothing to sell, did not know why he was in the union, or what unions could do, and was certainly the worst advertisement for unionized labor even Rickenbacker or Pegler could think up. Besides he had mike-fright.

Ole Olson was excellent, so was a negro girl, but in the end Molly and I had to take part in one of the experiments. We did three different types of things. 1. Roundtable with Mrs. R. as chairman. She did an extremely good job, but after all no mortal can lure orchids out of grass seeds, and the whole thing dragged and was boring. 2. discussions between Mrs. R. and Ole and the girl from Howard.

TWP

Date

March 9, 1943

Lat night Pearl Buck came to Dinner together with the Aubrey Williams' and Ken and Mary Holland. At the White House that is. I had never seen Pearl Buck close by and found her a very alive, fair and imposing person. Aubrey asked her about Chiang and she told him that she thought he was a really great man, rather uncouth, the true type of a war lord. If he had lived a century earlier he would have begun a new dynasty, after having finished off the old one. She does not believe that China will develop democratically unless we give a very strong example. She insists that up to now China has not been particularly impressed. Mme Chiang, she said has really very little idea of the people in her country. Apparently she has had long and heated discussions with Miss Buck about the subject, insisting that what Miss Buck means by people are really the underprivileged, "and after all there are other people in China". But Miss Buck says she means 85% of Chinas inhabitants. She talked again - as in her article in the Times some weeks ago about the shocking political administration of Chinese Relief by rather reactionary Americans. And she seemed upset that Harry Luce and his group had so much to do with the arrangements of Mme Chiangs tour.

There was talk last night, that the tour would be discontinued, as the doctors were not willing to take the responsibility for this strenuous schedule.

Miss Buck was quite sure that the only way to get Mme to agree to such curtailment would be to prove to her that she would harm China if she made a swing thru the country. Which I think is very possible.

When I went to the apartment for tea today, Tommy was quite upset about the latest piece of information from the State department. Harry Hopkins apparently had given orders that Mme was to be managed by him alone while in Washington and by nobody else. Mrs. R. looked grim.

After dinner Mrs. R. and her guests went to a meeting for Mrs. Bethune and I stayed with Ken and Mary, waiting for her to come back and take the train to New York with me. Ken seemed very pleased about his job. He is planning now to stay with the Rockefeller office, as a plan he has worked out for Mass education both in Latin-America about the USA and in the USA about Latin-America has Nelson support and might pass. He wants five million dollars, and has begun to talk with Congress men. Of course, the plan has to pass the Bureau of the Budget first. Ken says, that for the first time he has really had a chance to work with Nelson that before he and the non-social members of the staff had been kept at a distance by Nelsons Social Register boys. Even now he is made to feel rather strongly

~~SECRET~~
~~SECRET~~

To talk about it is still a terrible effort - but now it is started - and I spend hours turned to you trying to tell you what bothers me. You must feel it sometimes - I start really talking and then get desperate as for a moment you seem to be here and then you are gone again.

When I come - would you just let me be with you for a while before we begin to talk. Almost half the night has gone and I feel better. So hungry for you and your love -

I don't think I can fly Thursday for a moment I was terribly happy about the idea to be with you a day earlier but there are no seats now and they doubt whether I will be able to get one without priority 2. Mickey and Peter are sick - not very sick but enough to need a doctor (grippe) Tessie has hurt her back and I am trying to find a nurse but have not found one yet! I am praying that by Thursday they may be well! And if today I could have given them health by wishing I would have. I wished so hard. They seem better during the day but by 6 o'clock their fever was up (I have no air reservation yet for either Sunday or Monday and will probably have to come back by train. Mrs. R. told me that she had to use # 2 priority the last moment to be able to fly. I have wired for rooms and I am bringing all the things you want even garters if I can find pretty or patriotic ones!

When I think of being with you - everything else suddenly seems unimportant, you are my man and if I start from there things fall into their obvious places.

And now goodnight - my eyes are much better. I still get bad headaches but I have been told to expect them - so they do not bother me much. All my love if life were right I would now be easily settled in your arms.

T.

Return Address

TWP
2 W. 9th Str.
N.Y.C.

Addressee

Sgt. Joseph Lash
TSS # 7
Barracks 403
Chanute Field, Ill.

Postmark

New York, N.Y.
Mar. 10, 1943
1 AM
G.P.O.
Airmail

Dearest,

I have found your letter (with a check) this morning when I came back and another one arrived this afternoon. And I am worried about the letter I wrote at the White House yesterday, I was terribly depressed and then it is hard to write unless there is (Illegible) time to think and explain fully. Remember how we used to snatch moments for difficult talks and how it was always more disastrous than when we had time to emerge again after having sunk all the way into despair.

Fears? I think you are right as far as fears that only concerns oneself goes but I really don't think I am afraid for myself. I do not know how to deal with the feelings of guilt towards Elliott and begin to doubt whether I have the right to expose the children to all these sufferings, inherent in a divided family. I can rationally say that the family is divided now that there is no chance of mending it and I know that I can be happy only with you. But even that happiness gets marred unless I shut out what went before. I wrote you Monday that I had never bothered to think that actions have consequences! And that for a long time if one runs fast enough one can avoid them. In the end they catch up - always. Once I read a book, a prostitute married a decent sailor and settled with him on a little island where he was light housekeeper. For a while she was happy tending the house, mending his things in the evening, listening to the wind and feeling safe. Then it happened - she had nightmares about her past life she had to relive every bit of it, or perhaps live it for the first time - she had hardly been conscious of what she was doing before. You see, she loved the light housekeeper so everything in her came to life - good and bad - I don't know why I thought of that story. It can be told much more simply and is - in the bible - when a life becomes real so does death and real joy makes real pain possible.

Sometimes I feel like a gardener who is cleaning out his weeds - in order to make sure that they never grow again he deals with every weed so thoroughly that he suddenly realizes the summer has gone and he has not yet planted his seeds.

SECRET

Exhibit IX

Return Address

27 Sixth Avenue
Brooklyn, N.Y

PM
5 cents
New York Daily

Addressee

Sgt. Joseph Lash
TSS # 7
Chanute Field, Ill.

Postmark

Brooklyn, N.Y.
Mar. 8, 1943

PM
5 Cents
New York Daily

27 Sixth Avenue, Brooklyn, N.Y.
Sterling 3-2501

March 7, 1943

Dear Joe:

I should have answered much sooner your very kind note about my work on PM.

Do let me know how things have gone with you since, and what you thought of some of the things we have been doing on the paper.

If you get to New York give me a ring.

As ever,

Max

Max Lerner

ML:MH

Sgt. Joseph Lash

TSS # 7

Chanute Field, Ill.

Exhibit 100

section of youth from the colleges of the nation. They are decidedly anti-liberal, moderately international, extremely egotistical about their own nation, and prefer current vogue of thinking to any deep-rooted faith or perspective. Only one school teacher has a half-way liberal, social-worker approach of about 45 guys against one.

I have to go to mess, and if I don't stop, this will be my diary & you will not get it. The accusation you made at youth of the ISS stings me, in particular, for I think I have maintained just as great an effort & interest in the youth movement. What you should say, is that the young people made the mistake & failed in not going into the labor movement or progressive politics. But, we are still young in the USSA & ISA & I think we will find a fertile source of material on which to build United Nations leadership. United Nations, in basic concept though radical, is still pure in name. I think we'll carry it ahead some day in the not-too-distant future.

Yours,

Lon

SECRET

wages, when an issue like North Africa arises, the President has little liberal support. Why is there such a clear-cut union between financial interests and all policies of government, and such a cleavage between the same issues and organized labor's part in them?

If labor is a progressive force, then it must be progressive on all important issues, not merely on its own. The Nation and New Republic have been voices, without bodies for too long. Tribune is a much more effective organ because it has a real following in organizational terms, namely the British Labour Party. I am convinced that Roosevelt will take the liberal approach if he can see the channels clear for the realization of the issue involved. Labor has definitely been put on the defensive because it has chosen to hibernate and not grow in perspective. They are today concentrating all their effort on attacking the WLB, which has really served them well. They need leadership as never before.

This war has been a disappointment to me in many ways. Perhaps one of the greatest is the failure of the American people to respond to voluntary organization. To make progress in a democracy like ours, we must have highly organized groups, or the individual is shouting into a vacuum. Today, our nation is most highly organized - perhaps the most in all our history - yet we have little or no feeling of participation and contribution by the individual citizen. Merely placidly accepting the necessities of war. This fact might be one of the main reasons for our failure to become a working partner; The United Nations.

(It is now the next day, and we are waiting for inspection of our billets).

Perhaps even more serious, or at least equally serious, is the failure to train men who are going into battle with the fundamentals of democracy. Of course Ira Wolfert says that once they into action, men lose whatever social inhibitions they have had before and that the entire process is one of leading each man to a common denominator; 1. the struggle to survive; 2. that in the future, others will not have to face the same situation. I don't know. I have not seen action as yet. However, I do know that the college youth here are not at all interested in politics, and if they are, they are not progressives. My bunk-mate is an isolationist from Missouri, and a geopolitician from Georgetown. There are several from Williams who are blanks or reactionaries. But, even if they are relatively unpolitical, that is alright. What is discouraging is that no attempt is made to analyze what they are fighting in real terms. Here, I think, is a difficulty that rests partially with the Army & Navy, partially with the President, for not stating war aims clearer. I think the time is past when it should be settled in public psychology & official policy, as to what fairly specific ends we are driving towards. Of course, even at that, I find much scepticism at something

blanket as the Four Freedoms. However, at least a clear statement & picture of what Fascism is hasn't been put forth. Laski's first two sections in "Where Do We Go From Here" is still the best popular analysis I know. Yet, Joe, you never hear these causes mentioned. The films & the OWI releases have nothing in them to tell of the character of Facism, its universal applications.

Mar. 9

I have been rushed pretty much these past few days, and have scarcely read the papers, except Wallace's very good, but incomplete analysis of Fascism in Ohio yesterday. I particularly liked his approach to Russia, which bore into the philosophic and economic weaknesses of Marxism, but showed the essential freedoms that the Soviet Union has and the necessity for cooperation. For a Christian idealist, Wallace takes a first-rate imperial & historical approach.

I was shocked to hear of Allan Gottlieb's death. We hope to have a memorial service here in New York with possibly Max Lerner speaking & under the sponsorship of the USSA. It is a tragedy too costly in its portent for the future. God knows there are few of his caliber around.

Thank you for the advice on Flossie & me. We will definitely be married on June 17 or thereabouts, when I get commissioned (?). If we have a wedding ceremony (which is the only bone of contention; Flossie does with her daddy officiating, I don't, think most ceremonies are waste of time & energy, unless trying to convey mass appeal - and I need no further stimuli as far as my love & life goes), you certainly are invited to come.

We have just been arguing about the sales tax and again on the defeat of the Ruml plan. These guys all take the line that the workers are cleaning up in the war, at the expense of everybody else, & so are for the Ruml plan to let the rich live. Strangely, the all dislike Clare Luce as much as they do the New Deal - and, you must hear how they disparage Mrs. R. I innocently brought it up the other night & they sounded something like this, "We believe in equality of niggers, but you don't have to love 'em; you don't have to prefer them to whites as Mrs. Roosevelt does." They also complained about her traveling too much, which is straight from Pegler's book. They admired her sincerity, but not her tact or more appropriate, her political thinking. In many ways, they feel that Mrs. R. heads a radical undercurrent in the government & that here lies the latent reform in an otherwise conservative party.

The reason I cite all this is to point out that here is a cross-

Return AddressAddresseePostmark

Harris, L., A.S., V-7,
USNR
837 John Jay
USNR Midshipmen's School
New York, N. Y.

Sgt. Joseph Lash
T.S.S. # 7
Barracks 4-3
Chamute Field
Illinois

New York, N.Y.
Mar. 9, 1943
11 PM
Free
Station

837 John Jay
USNR Midshipmen's School
New York, N.Y.
March 5, 1943

Dear Joe,

Your letter was such a full one that I decided to wait until I had some time to answer it.

Let me just take your letter point by point. I don't know exactly what you mean when you say the ISA has no program. I think they must extend into the field of youth and insist on youth's voice in the peace. I think they should take positions on larger international problems, and they should state clearly how they think democratic youth can contribute to a United Nations victory. However, first they must get student backing in an organizational form. I think it can be said that the difficulty with ISS was that they trained young student leadership but had no organization or no threshold to which they could apply themselves. This is always a tragedy, for it inevitably means thinking in terms of personalities, which is always fatal.

Your statement about the young people losing enthusiasm when the rays of publicity and fan-fare are removed puzzled me somewhat. I recall what Roger Baldwin said, at Camp Iello about men being duelly mot; vated by personal ambition and strong convictions and that the two must be reconciled, for I think you will admit that the martyr is really the supreme egotist. I think the students in ISS were motivated too often by the hope of staying at the White House; too seldom by the fire to fight and to take it on the chin if need be. As a matter of fact, I think that the foundation of those who did believe in a democratic youth movement was great not only because of organizational blanks, but also because of a real failure on the part of adult progressives to make their cause a real one. Now it becomes clear that the President has actually been handicapped by labor, rather than helped. Because labor has kept its ranks apart and has confined its thinking to mere local issues like grievance machinery and

Exhibit VII

EASTMAN HOUSE
ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

VIA AIR MAIL



Air Mail

*Sergeant Ralph Lee
788#4 barracks 403
Chabata Field
Illinois*

one & get her divorce & I don't think
any agreements she may have had
should interfere if possible. She felt
she must live up to certain un-
derstandings or commitments
because of the & love the children & she
thinks she should not go through
what she has done before. She
then feels guilty & wishes to go
to work & from the health angle
I think it's dangerous, better to
deers some means of circumventing
gossip & keeping eyes - I know
she will not want to talk to me about
all this. Perhaps I should not
even talk to you & perhaps there

is nothing & that kind family is as you that understand
well but back to where you must have that if
Rayray if could be helped, financially or otherwise
I need to be consulted -

I like the "Abolitionists", he is young in the land of the
University & wants thoughts for himself. The day and when
beginning a new conference & I hope I can be
helpful in some way. I feel good - Please talk to me again.
I'd like to talk to you by the telephone if you'd like to
in Dallas when I have a chance to see you in the morning

have, but only on a part of the part
& Truus is encouraging. Oh! how I
long for steady improvement every year.
So the army may decide it is useless
& give up.

They love to see you, if you think
I am so interfering. I remember
that I love you & shall cheerfully
say & do nothing to hurt you if
I can help it.

Very truly
—

EGP

he is back, & Hilda did have the
three into some discouraging things.
Please you & I hope you get over before
Truus comes.

EGP

Thursday

EASTMAN HOUSE
ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

Dear sweet

Hilda came up with us Saturday
& she feels as if she should
go to the doctor & have a real check up
the back body. I will urge her to do
that when she returns next time & I
hope you will but Hilda does not
want anyone to know she said
anything - how I'm going to say
things which is now a day's business &
please forgive me if you are angry.
If by chance Truus should find
a baby on the way, make her go.

Exhibit IV

EASTMAN HOUSE
Rochester, New York

Tuesday

Joe dearest,

Hildur came up with me last night & she feels as I do that Trude should go to the doctor and have a real check up. She looks badly. I will urge her to do this when she returns next time & I hope you will, but Hildur does not want anyone to know she said anything. Now, I'm going to say something which is none of my business & please forgive me if you are angry. If by chance Trude should find a baby on the way, make her go at once & get her divorce & I don't think any arguments she may have made should interfere. If, however, she feels she must live up to certain understandings or commitments because of me (?) & the children, I still think she should not go through what she has done before. She then feels guilty & untrue to you and to herself, & from the health point I think it is dangerous. Better to devise some means of circumventing gossip & prying eyes. I know she will not want to talk to me about all this. Perhaps I should not even talk to you & perhaps there is nothing of this kind to worry her or you, but somehow I felt this must be written & you must know that if in anyway I could be helpful, financially or otherwise, I was to be counted on.

I like the Valentines. He is young for the head of their University and seems thoughtful & liberal. The day will soon (illegible) conference & I hope I can be (illegible) I feel quite fresh, but the night (illegible) & by this afternoon I may be weary! The Russians seem to have a set back in the morning news, but only on a part of the front & Tunis is encouraging. Oh! how I long for steady improvement everywhere so the enemy may decide it is useless & give up -

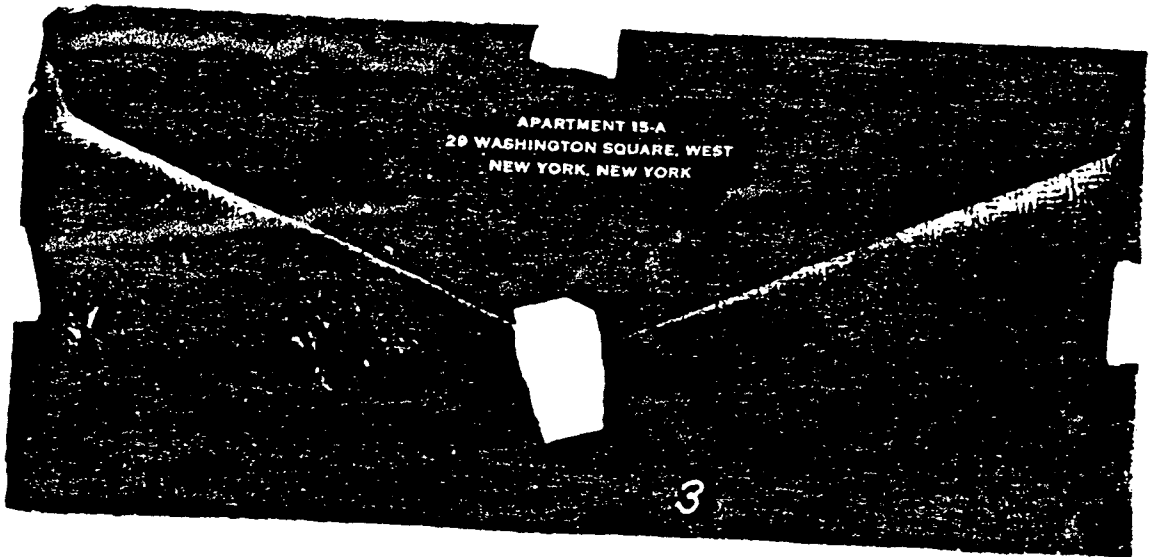
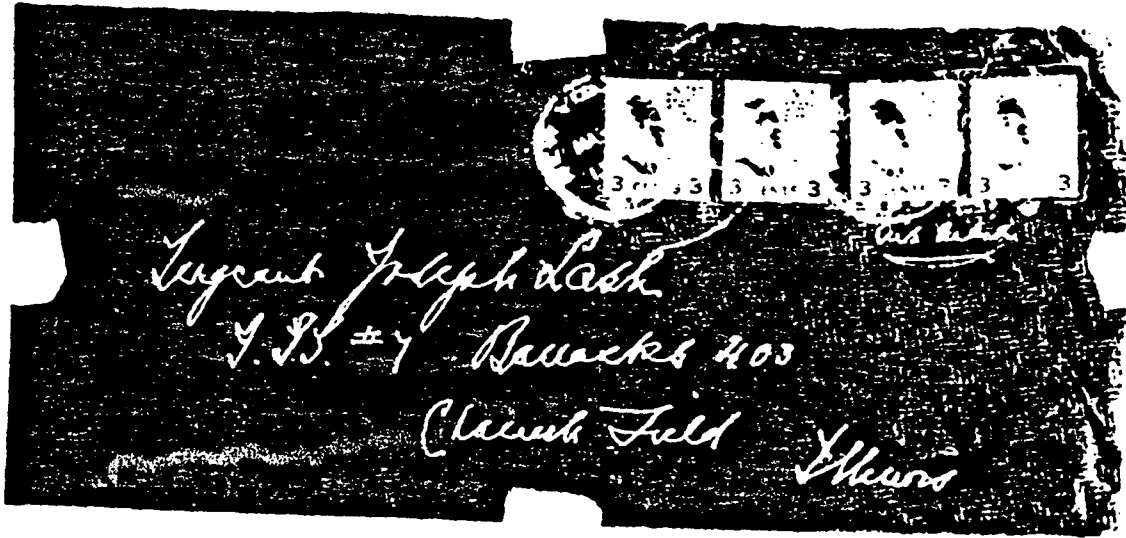
My love to you dear, if you think I am too interfering just remember that I love you & Trude dearly & will try to do nothing to hurt you if I can help it -

Devotedly -

E. R.

We're back & Hildur did well, tho she ran into some discouraging things. Bless you & I hope you get this before Trude leaves.

E. R.



be interested I think. He never told his daughter
had a bad time on his account trying to get a job
working for Phelps's Douglas came to the last
night saying that he had heard he might not be allowed
to go to Phillips's training school because of his past
conduct & another man was chosen his companion
the last day because he had been a labor organizer.
Today's M. A. carries a story on the war department
and which gives you the suggestion of organiza-
tion I believe, in other words. I feel as you
gather a bit disappointed but it makes me want
to fight harder.

I spoke at Richmond that won't amount
to the Girl Scouts' holder for it going to Wash-
ton instead of here. I'll see Trade when I get
back on Thursday & I hope I can send you a letter
by then. Then I'd like you to write me back!

I enclose an interview which may amuse you.
The news from a young man in B. E. W. I've been
travelling in he wants American trade to be made
the method to somewhat different? All my love
2

Tuesday

APARTMENT 1B-A
29 WASHINGTON SQUARE, WEST
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

You know, I was glad to get your letter
written Sunday here & I am keeping my fingers
crossed for you & Heidi. I dropped her at her
house ^{the night} she looked better but she phoned here
to say Peter had a cough & that the cough
at the time she came in & had just left. She
is worried about the children. But Sydney
called her ^{the night before} & she was annoyed to find that
it was largely curiosity about the (long
which brought about the call. How to people
are sometimes! But he's spent a lot of time
hanging with me & he is really a big piece
of mind as I tell you the whole Marshall Field
& Company plan situation which has been together
the last long & complicated work. ^{the night}
Exhibit II

Apartment 15-A
29 Washington Square, West
New York, New York

Tuesday

Joe dearest,

It was good to get your little note written Sunday here & I am keeping my fingers crossed for you & Trude. I dropped her at the house this morning. She looked better, but she phoned (illegible) today. Peter had a cough & Mickey the sniffles. At the time she came in I had just left. She is not worried about the children. Mrs. Troy had called her & she wanted to see her. She was annoyed to find that it was largely curiosity about Madam Chiang which brought about the call! How little people are sometimes! Mr. Weiss (?) spent an hour this morning with me & he is really a big person! Remind me to tell you the whole Marshall Field & Congress Rask (?) situation next time we are together. It is too long & complicated to write, but you would be interested I think. Mr. Weiss told me his daughter had a bad time & he's (illegible) trying to get a job in Washington. Melvyn Douglas came to see me last night saying that he had heard he might not be allowed to go to officer's training school because of his past record & another man was denied his commission the last day because he had been a labor organizer. Today's P.M. carries a story on the War Dept. School (illegible) which grew from my suggestion of investigation I surmise & is rather (illegible). I feel, as you gather, a bit depressed, but it makes me want to fight harder.

I spoke at Barnard this noon and now must go to the Girl Scouts. Hildur Coon (?) is going to Rocketter instead of June. I'll see Trude when I get back on Thursday & I hope I can send you a letter by her. Then I'd like you to move the next week!

I enclose an interview which may amuse you. The memo from a young man in B.E.W. I want your reaction on. He want S. American trade, but wouldn't these methods be somewhat difficult?

All my love dear,

E. R.

Dearest, I think your suggestions for the radio program are wonderful, and I agree that such a program would be more successful than a simple forum, even if one could get the best people as chairmen. Unfortunately radio companies are extremely scared and would like to insure themselves against all hazards such as discussions on political subjects. From my talks with the CBS people I became convinced that they are especially afraid of Mrs. R. Naturally the opposition would take even the slightest chance to raise the cry "politics" and demand time. On the other hand discussions on safe subjects might just as well not be held. I'll let you know right away how our audition works out this afternoon

Mrs. R. told me about your talk on the advisability of a trip to China and read me Mrs. Morgenthau's letter. I have little confidence in the courage of the OWI, and I think the conservatives are more and more in the saddle there. If they are unwilling to do more in case Mrs. R. does go to Russia and China than they did with her English trip, --such a trip might be a waste of time. But it would also be a waste of the most wonderful opportunity to build much needed United Nations feeling in this country. Somehow one ought to be able to show them what a tremendous thing it could be.

Now I have to run down to talk over this afternoon.

T.

Return AddressAddresseePostmark

TWP
8 W 9th St.
NYC

Sgt. Joseph Lash
TSS # 7, Barracks 403
Chanute Field, Ill.

New York, N.Y.
Mar. 7, 1943
6 PM
G.P.O.
Airmail

11

8 West Ninth Street

March 6, 1943

Dearest,

Your telephone personality is consistently bad. If I did not love you so much and know you so well and understand how you feel - and if I did not feel the same way, I would certainly get frightened. Some day we will learn. We might have telephones installed in adjoining rooms and first time it gets bad put the receiver down, go into a third room, hold each other tight for a moment and then try again. What were you worried about? You cannot believe that my letters from you which contain disagreeable but terribly true observations could keep me from writing or change my feelings. You are still worried you are still sorry about Altscrene though now it does not need to be argued any longer. There were no secret meetings nor frequent meetings nor dealings about which you did not know. The frequent telephone messages were censored by his interest and my own satisfactory response. This was a hideous day. I had expected El to come in this morning but he decided to come in the afternoon which I had to spend at the eye doctors. In the mean time Kate decided not to stay here and to spend the evening with Bettina Warburg but asked whether she and Houlin could come for cocktails. They did, he arrived at the same time and they had to leave at the same time for her dinner appointment so I have not talked with El but I hope to tomorrow. Peter was mad as Dick Schaeffer was show bound and could not come and Mickie, whom I took shopping in the morning, caught a cold. This evening the ceiling developed a crack in the children's room and water comes pouring in. I really feel like the proverbial grousing civilian and none of it is serious, serious, it is only that I am restless, feel useless and unhappy and part of that is due to this hideous eye business and the rest can be cured next weekend. I want very much to stay over Sunday and I am sure I can get a plane back. I was worried at the moment that I might miss another Russian lesson (I am missing one this Monday) and that would be the end of that. How can you like someone so complaining and disagreeable, but still all my love.

T.

Exhibit IV
1

Sunday afternoon, March 21

III. Post War Aspects of Stabilization: How much control and
for how long?

Speaker: H. L. White

Monday morning, March 22, 9:00 am

IV. Workshops

1. Organization of local conferences
2. Work with the Community; surveys - OCD
block plan - consumer groups

Monday lunch, March 22- YWCA

Monday afternoon, March 22

V. The Responsibility of Students for the Stabilisation Program

Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt

UNIVERSITY
OF CALIFORNIA

INFLATION OR STABILIZATION

A conference, sponsored by the United States Student Assembly, for college students to study the government program to achieve economic stability, to lay plans for campus participation in this program, to become acquainted with government resources as aids to these plans.

Friday evening, March 19, 8:30 pm

I. The Inflationary Threat: maximum employment - rising national income - production for war - contracting volume of goods

Speaker: Dr. Gerhard Colm

Saturday morning, March 20, 9:00 am

II. Price Ceilings: Their Four Walls

1. Price Control: Price legislation - rationing

Speaker:

Government resources to aid in education for price control: Publications - movies - speakers

Saturday lunch - YWCA, 17th and K Sts., NY

Saturday afternoon, March 20

2. Bonds versus Taxes: why bonds instead of higher taxes?

Speaker:

Government resources to aid in war bond campaigns

Saturday evening, March 20, 8 pm

3. Wage Control: Little Steel Formula

Speaker:

Sunday noon, March 21

4. Taxation: pay as you go controversy - comparison with Britain

Speaker: Mr. Roy Blough

he certainly is in the dumps. I can't decide whether his state of mind is a serious condition or whether it is just growing pains. He seems to hate Williams but is still there.

Now it is Monday and I think I shall mail this. The conference on economic Stabilization is coming along well - we are getting wonderful cooperation on it from the government. If you have time to look over the program, I would be glad to have your suggestions for improvements.

The Am. Friends are getting ready to have a big dinner in D.C. with the Phil Murray as the main speaker. I have been working with Anna on it and have seen lots of your old pals - Lucy & Felix, Mary & Jack, Ruth Schecter, Jimmie - Nancy, the Weyls, etc.

Do you think I should serve on the Ad. Com. of USSA? I somehow think it would be a good idea for USSA not to be hampered by someone whom the Catholics consider a Communist. What is your opinion? Do you know why they didn't ask you to serve? I wrote them I was furious they had not done so.

Bob Bralek called the other day - he wanted to be remembered to you. He has gone in the Army & is trying to get into meteorology - Maybe he will see you at MIT. Pauline's husband is out in Texas and she feels lost.

Yours -

Molly

Art says much to his surprise about half the men there are non-intellectuals - truck drivers, gas station men, farmers, etc. who arrived at their position not via the pacifist club in college but thru reading the Bible. Well, these men have always worked for their living and been paid a regular wage. It makes them furious not to be paid - they loaf on the job, fight to take the camp out of the hands of the Friends who seem to have no understanding of their point of view, and they are a generally frustrated bunch. They are reclaiming 40,000 acres of farm land but many of them seem to feel this is not significant work. Some of them are beginning to go to jail rather than to stay in camp. In addition to these problems the intellectuals who have been previously active feel isolated and buried. I think I have every sympathy with the pacifist point of view but in this day and age it seems criminal to me that a person like Bob Levin should be fighting the 'Friends' Control of a CPS camp rather than fighting the reactionaries in Congress and elsewhere. I think it no wonder that he feels frustrated and I should think he would be able to figure out why. I hope to see him one day and learn what he has thought about all this.

I have had wonderful letters from the Campbell kids who are elated about USSA. Bits of news in which you would be interested are that Johnny Chapman graduated with highest honors in economics - The first such in 9 years at Swarthmore. He got married right after graduation and he is now in the Army Air Corps taking pilot training. Poor Peter - because of going to Harvard this summer he missed two seminars and could not be graduated with honors. However, he knew that would happen so I don't suppose he minded. He did brilliantly on the exams he took. Jay Krane won a government internship as did North Burn. They are both in D.C. now but Jay will probably be drafted.

Another ASU marriage - perhaps the last - Vera Rony and Lee Wiggins. They got married only recently and Lee has finished his pilot training and is ready to be sent abroad.

I got a terrific letter from Norman Birnbaum -

Mrs. David M. Levy, Archibald MacLeish, Mrs. Dwight Morrow,
William A. Neilson, Marjorie Nicolson, Reinhold Niebuhr, Mrs.
William Paley, Elizabeth Robertson, Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
Robert Spivack, John W. Studebaker, I Eric Warburg, George F.
Zook, STUDENT MEMBERS, Aline Austin, North Burn, Louis Harris,
Edward Ladd, Jane Plimpton.

STAFF: Trude W. Pratt, General Secretary; C. Maurice Wieting, Field
Secretary; Louise B. Morley, Conference Secretary; Monica Owen,
Assistant Conference Secretary; Irwin Ross, Editor "THRESHOLD";
Irene Murray, Business Manager "THRESHOLD"; Eliot D. Pratt,
Director of Work Camps; Josephine Lee, Assistant Refugee Secretary;
Molly Yard, Secretary Washington Student Service Bureau.

Return Address

Addressee

Postmark

Sergeant Joseph P. Lash Washington, D.C.
TSS # 7, Barracks 403 Mar. 3, 1943
Chamute Field, Ill.

On back of envelope appeared the following in handwriting:
"Just talked with Trude re Alan - she told me your idea re
memorial. We have thought of a living one such as a scholar-
ship fund for the United Nations Summer Institute.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICE OF THE
UNITED STATES (ISS)

Washington Student Service Bureau
1155 Sixteenth St., N.W. Republic 3362
Washington, D.C.

Saturday

Dear Joe -

I have lots of news and will write until Joan wakes
up. Sorry I haven't a pen so as to be more legible but
I've lost two - somewhere in this house in the last two weeks.

I may as well get the bad news done with - Alan
Gottlieb was killed. Maybe you have seen something about
it. I know nothing except Daddy wrote a note saying "I suppose
you know Alan was killed in a crash Saturday!" I will
write to his mother and tell her how much we all liked him
and how highly we regarded him. It was very curious - almost
immediately after I got the news Art Wiser of Cornell phoned
me and came out to see me. He and Bob Levin of Anties are at
a CPS Camp in Maryland. He told me all their problems and the
whole thing seemed a world set apart. You know, they pay their
own way if they can, if they can't the friends pay for them.

Executive Committee: Alvin Johnson, Chairman; Mrs. Henry Goodard Smith,
Dr. Alfred E. Kahn, Dr. George Hunter, Vice-Chairman; Algernon B.
Black, Stephen Duggan, Clyde Hagleton, A. Roland Miller, Oscar E.
Fisher, William Fletcher, Carl J. Friedman, Harry Glickman, Kenneth
Holland, Walter Kotschnig, Joseph K. ...

We are having various members of the executive committee write an article for each issue of the Bulletin - also we're going to put other delegation news in it & pictures.

The enclosed paper, Don Thurber brought into the office. Thought they might amuse you.

What do you think about us working with the free world group? Judging from their conference - they are very definitely communistic now, but they have captured the enthusiasm of good groups like the Detroit Youth Council and Junior Hadassah which is surprisigly strong, & Catholic Youth org. of Chicago. Actually their program is pretty good, but I have a feeling they can't really have a depth or stability which would appear to exist from the surface. The danger lies in the fact that they are trying to take over our ISA work, (and the colors of the World Youth Council were doubtful you remember) with the result that one, we are going so slowly we may lose a chance to really make an international youth group & (if they turn it into the farce the Youth Congress was finally turned into, we are much farther behind than before the assembly,) and two, they completely confuse the issues so many of our ISA people begin to doubt our ISA goals because they only see the validity of an all-youth org. (which has of course a trump & point)

Then too, there is the Bob Phillips angle which Irene wrote you about, which wasn't really too tragic. I think however, our most necessary work now is to get rolling with our United Nations Institute with a good program & good publicity.

Trude and I had good fun yesterday going for a walk with Vera & Mickey. We'd play hide & seek all along the way and Mickey got so excited he fairly burst each time we were spotted. I think they get cuter every day.

Trude goes harder than ever as you know. How I wish she would think of herself and take care of herself for a change! (The summer vacation she never took.)

But I ramble on - Morine's birthday is next weekend & we are having a party, Saturday from 5-8 here. I wish you could get leave & come!

Morley has started her long trip so you'll probably see her soon.

Best of luck to you! I'm laying my bets for you coming out at the top of the class -

Best - Hildur

metal! Aside from the disappointment - the implications for war production in relation to the man-power situation are quite frightening I think.

K₂ then writes the situation at home is very bad. There is such an overcrowding of people that all control has been lost - The men (& women) are most of them making incredible sums such as they would never have dreamed of before the war, and striking for more. - That they don't know what to do with their money and spend madly - gamble, and drink like mad. I'm sure mother gets a bit biased, dreaming of the quiet Seattle of the past, but it does indicate a critical situation with no solution seemingly forthcoming - especially with Congress cutting domestic funds as it seems they will. However, my union situation has it good points too, 'cause it means I can devote my entire time for a while to ISA- USSA- which certainly needs some hard work by some one to liven it up! Irene is doing a wonderful job, Flossie works like a trojan, and the kids have been wonderful so far at coming in for volunteer help. Molly has been working on the Washington conference - and I think it's going to be a good one. I certainly wish you were coming. It's still in too much of a formative stage to really write about, but if it works out the students who come will be trained so we can count on them to take place of all over old faithfuls who are going into the army - Harris, Yarmolinsky, etc. It's also got to be good, because everyone is going to be watching to see what we do, and who comes; and it's going to decide our backing with governmental agencies (The prestige value which the assembly built up in Wash.) (Molly says she's never had so much cooperation).

Morine & Chris have been talking constantly to heckle me, and now insist I go to a murder mystery with them - so to insure peace - I'll continue this later (also to keep murder from being enacted here & now -

It certainly is later - March 8 to be exact. During the ensuing period from the last time I was letter writing Dee Cohn & Gid decided to not let us use the threshold mailing list, there to - and now are so crossed up they are at each other's throats - we are still waiting.

Meanwhile the bulletin comes out tomorrow or Wed. depending on how many people come in to help, or interrupt. How do you like the new name "Assembly Line" It was the best I could think of, and while it is timely - the peglerites will certainly draw connotations. I am anxious to have your criticism on the whole thing - and certainly wish you were closer so you could drop in the office!

SECRET

Return Address

Addressee

Postmark

Miss Hildur Coon
204 1/2 W. 13th St.
New York City

Sgt. Joseph Lash
TSS # 7 Barracks 403
Chanute Field, Illinois
New York, N.Y.
Mar. 9, 1945
11:30 AM
Airmail

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ASSEMBLY
8 West 40th Street
New York City
Lackawanna 4-2554

Executive Committee

February 26, 1943

President
THOMAS MATTERS
United States

Vice-President
DR. HUNG-TI CHU
China

Executive Secretary
TRUDE W. PRATT
United States

Regional Representatives

ALICE DEMARTRES
France Combattante

EDGAR GAB ALDON
Venezuela

ALEXEI SOKIRKEN
Union of Socialist
Soviet Republics

Dear Joe -

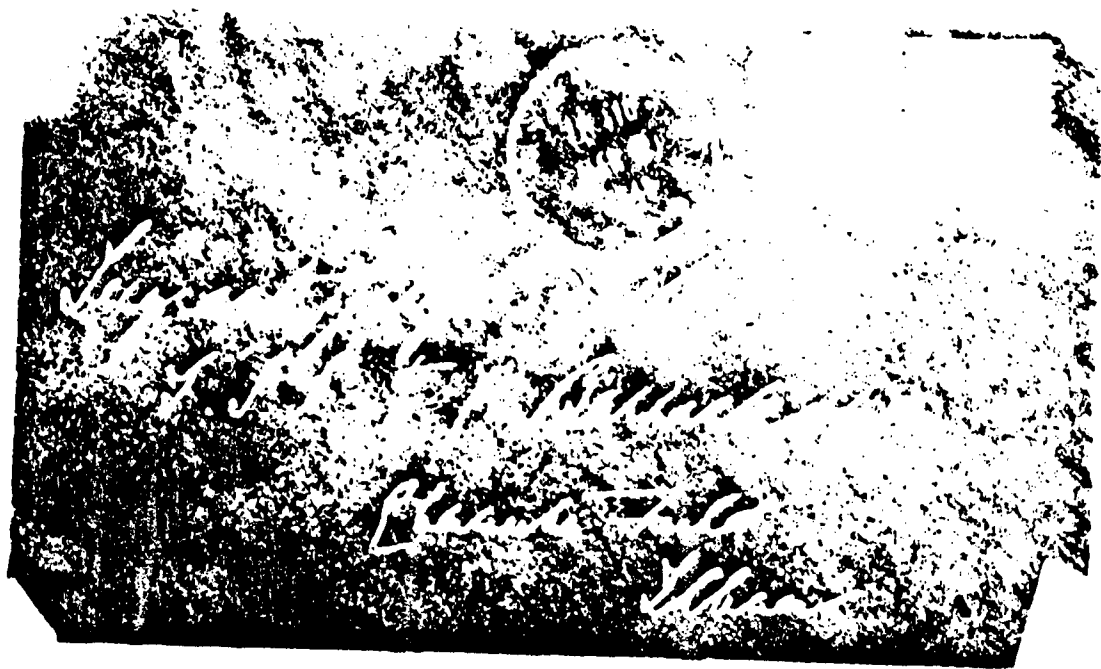
Think you ought to see this letterhead too. (Also I seem to have some of it sitting on my desk here at home. - Morine and I are completely pushed. -

I had to go to the office to get some stuff to day, so we roller skated there and back! Up 6th & down 5th, Morine's skates didn't fit too well, so when I looked back she was generally decorating some corner. On one corner, after a really ridiculous sprawl (she never hurt herself in the tumbles) we looked up and there stood Sonia Grodka (lss refugee), "Hey," she said with a perfectly serious face, "You girls out for your health?" I agree with you - this moral early to bed, lots of exercise, early to rise, life is enough to polish anyone off (especially if the exercise is skating! However, the streets are wonderfully smooth and there's no traffic but a handful of bus's and taxis now.

On the more serious side - my union troubles I felt quite discombobulated after my last talk with Mr. Bruno - for he said, although I could definitely work for Ford Instrument I couldn't begin for another month because they couldn't get

Exhibit II

Mrs. FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT
WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON, D. C.



The past weeks you & I just
I'm sorry I've been so busy I had
9:30 p.m. So I got much later than
last evening - I hope you had you
had you like I said I'm sorry
we talked a lot on the radio today.
The young ones on the whole are very happy
Perhaps one or two a little & have
anyway of expressing even what is
disturbing one?

I'll write again to you. This
is really to tell you that I'm still happy
in the thought of you his peaceful days
Love you
E.P.

Monday Sept 15

1600 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

My dear Bob

I wish I was just being for h. s.
but I must wish - O how I wish you
that I had you with me ready for her
when she arrived at a hotel after
lunch last night - he talked about
you & I do hope something keeps her
from you this coming week end. She
loves you. Her eyes must have followed
her all day long last night. I see

EXHIBIT I

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D. C.

Monday night

Joe dearest,

Frank and I are just leaving for N. Y. but I must write a line to tell you that I had your letter ready for her when she arrived at a little after twelve last night - We talked about you & I do hope nothing keeps her from you this coming week end. She misses you. Her eyes must have bothered her and she doesn't look just right to me. She just needs you I guess.

Tommy and I flew and arrived about 8:30 p.m. So I got much mail done last evening. Trude will have told you that your idea turned out to be the only one we liked at all for the radio today. The young ones on the whole were disappointing. Perhaps one must live a little to be able anyway of expressing even what is disturbing one ??

I'll write again tomorrow. This is really to tell you that I'm still happy in the thought of one nice peaceful day & love you.

E. R.

Date
3-12-43

From
E R
New York, N. Y.

3-12-43

Mr. and Mrs. J. Calelebut
47-12 43rd Ave.
L. I. C.
Queens, N. Y.

3-12-43

Mary
Jersey City, N. J.

3-12-43

Max Lerner
27 Sixth Avenue
Brooklyn, N. Y.

3-12-43

T W P
8 West 9th Street
New York, N. Y.

The letter from Cherry Lane Laundry was an advertisement. MARY of Jersey City, N. J. appeared to be a casual friend, and Mr. and Mrs. J. CALELEBUT are the sister and brother-in-law of Subject, who wrote about family matters. The remainder of the letters appear as exhibits.

NOTE:

It is recommended that LON HARRIS, V-7, USNR, 837 John Jay, USNR Midshipmen's School, New York, New York, be referred to ONI for investigation and that a background check of TRUDE W. FRATT, 8 West 9th Street, New York, New York be instituted.

Mary F. Walterhouse
MARY F. WALTERHOUSE
Major, Air Corps

SECRET

Chamute Field, Illinois
March 14, 1943
201 - LASH, JOSEPH P.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE:

Subject: JOSEPH P. LASH
ASN 32326519, Sgt.
2nd Weather Squadron
Patterson Field, Ohio
Att. 7th Tech. Sch. Sq.
Chamute Field, Illinois

Re : Results of Mail Cover

This officer reviewed results of mail cover on Sgt. JOSEPH P. LASH, ASN 32326519, 2nd Weather Squadron, Patterson Field, Ohio, attached to 7th Technical School Squadron, Chamute Field, Illinois, on March 14, 1943, in connection with an investigation of Subject, who is suspected of Communistic affiliations. The review covered the period from March 9, 1943, to March 14, 1943. Subject received the following mail:

<u>Date</u>	<u>FROM</u>
3-10-43	E R 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. Washington, D. C.
3-10-43	Miss Hildur Coon 204½ W. 13th New York, New York
3-10-43	Molly Yard Washington, D. C.
3-11-43	Cherry Lane Laundry 65 Banow Street New York, New York
3-11-43	Lon Harris, A.S. V-7 USNR 837 John Jay USNR Midshipmen's School New York, N. Y.
3-11-43	Trude W. Pratt 8 West 9th St. New York, New York
3-11-43	E R Apartment 15 A 29 Washington Square, West New York, N. Y.

Incl #3

SECRET

The Blackstone

Michigan Avenue at 7th Street
Chicago, Illinois



NOT IN AIR MAIL

Ernest Joseph Lath
L.S. Reynolds
Pleasant Hill, Illinois

The train is full of boys, most of
them are from this people have been
attracted to go to town to see the
I have to think as saying his name
is the name of the man.

~~It is a very good~~
I hope you about the
trucks loads of goods. I hope all your
will go with you and. Please you don't
forget to send a copy to me. My
love

UP

I had to check out of the house
the house is full of people
for the boys for (please) on the train, who
I don't know who but I don't know any
one who is really interested in it he was at the
house for the night. I don't know if it is
the same as the one you are talking about.

Chicago Hotel

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

I know I will be in your eyes for a long time
 when you see the sign of the Chicago Hotel
 in Chicago, Ill. I shall be so thankful
 for the way is over the top I shall always
 remember to be one to give of being
 that I love.

I know you will be in your eyes for a long time
 when you see the sign of the Chicago Hotel
 in Chicago, Ill. I shall be so thankful
 for the way is over the top I shall always
 remember to be one to give of being
 that I love.



URBANA-LINCOLN HOTEL
Urbana, Illinois

Sunday on train

Joe dearest,

I hated to see you leave & yet I'm so happy ^{to have been} (illegible) with you. Separation between people who love each other makes the reunion always like a new discovery. You forget how much you love certain movements of the hands or the glances in the person's eyes or how nice it is to sit in the same room and look at their back! I shall be so thankful when the war is over that I hope I shall always remember to treasure the gift of being with those I love -

I came across a nice paragraph just now for scribblers like myself:- "If you do not write what you think you are deceiving people - That is a crime - If you really write what you think you make people pay attention to you (illegible) - And that is a (illegible) - - - He added that in this life one could say what one thought only to one or two people."

Perhaps one should just write letters to those one loves!

The train is full of boys, most of them air force. How people's lives have been dislocated & yet for Love it may be good. I hear a boy behind me saying he's gained 25 lbs. since he came in.

The weather still looks good and I hope for a plane so your letter will be in Trude's hands tonight. I hope all goes well for next weekend. Bless you dear. Thanks for such a happy time.

All my love,

E. R.

I read the enclosed article by Lt. Neilan (?) and thought you might be interested so cut it out. He talked to a lot of boys from Chanute (?) (illegible), radio, mechanics, etc., but I don't think any were (illegible) men - just as well, for their is only one I'm really interested in! We will be about a half hour late, but flying is clear (?) all the way they say, so we fly!

Love again,

E.R.

44-a
Typed copy of
42, 43 & 44

CONFIDENTIAL

In my opinion the New School is in the same position again, in which it was a year ago. It needs money so badly that Johnson does not want to do anything which might annoy the trustees. I think he would oppose a labor school with all his power. An American Institute of World Affairs is for most members a very exciting thing. I wonder whether they really have thought through what it will mean if it is to be good and important.

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loyalty of groups. He would like to form the German counterpart of the Mizzini Society, as it is of course impossible to have anything resembling a Government in exile. He would ask people like Friedrich and Unlich. He even trusts Wolfers (though he knows that politically they are in opposite camps) as he believes Wolfers would never be an intrigant, while he knows that Staudinger had handed in bad reports about the agent group (to the O.I) while apparently he was friendly with them.

All this happened after I had seen Loewe just a few hours before and had spent a long time discussing Staudinger. Loewe insists that he is completely trustworthy and that his mistakes are due only to a rather undisciplined temperament. Loewe is ready to swear that Staudinger has no desire whatsoever to take over the New School. In talking with him and Tillich, however, I got worried as obviously Staudinger seems now to be the recognised leader of their group. Probably in the same way as in Germany, when he was Staatssecretuer and Loewe and Mrs. Staudinger told him what to do.

The situation seems to be this: To Hagen Loewe, Staudinger and to a less degree Pollock are intellectuals who all their lives have been professors and have not been of any help in 1933 and are probably not to be used politically in the coming Germany--or Europe, or if one uses them they must not be in leading positions. They must stay professors or let others tell them what to do. Staudinger who is politically active is bound by loyalty to the socialdemocrats and by temperament opposed to Russia. Tillich who is above these considerations must be toughened and shown that it is his duty to break through considerations of "what one does"--"what can be harmful in the eyes of Americans" etc. He must, for instance be convinced that it is important for him to work with the Free World people., even if Staudinger warns him against it. In the past Tillich has always said that he will come if Staudinger comes.

To Loew, Staudinger and a little to Pollock (I'm not sure about that) Hagen is a revolutionary, a man of radical political action who is marked and will always be rejected by the "right" people, moreover a man whom the socialdemocrats hate with an implacable hatred and who in the past has been known not to have been guided by the same principles as decent people. They will call him an opportunist, because they know that he has loyalty to one cause only the kind of society he wants to build whatever the costs. They know that he will not feel any personal loyalty if a compromist of his beliefs is involved. And Staudinger knows, that Hagen detests the socialdemocrats even if he has to work with them. Loewe reiterated what he had said in Washington: that to work with Hagen does not mean to work with an individual but with a group and that he has to be considered as a communist.

Can one work with both groups? Is it possible to understand both and to try and combine the positive elements of both? And can some one as inexperienced as I do it?

Hagen by the way reported, that Treviranus it finished, that apparently he had not been able to deliver the goods and had been dropped by the State department and is now trying desperately to have his visa extended, with no success so far.

Hagens group will have a dinner in Washington at which Phil Murray will speak, and which Molly is arranging. Molly did not tell me about it, I never knew Hagen was in touch with her. It promises to be a good dinner.

CONFIDENTIAL

REMI T ADDRESS

TWP
S W. 9th St.
NYC

ADDRESSEE

Sgt. Joseph Lash
TSS #7, Barracks 403
Chanute Field, Ill.

POSTMARK

March 7, 1943 6 PM
New York City

TWP

March 6

Lou Harris just called me to say that he had been very puzzled by your letter. You apparently wrote that you are disappointed with the ISA and Ussa and with the whole democratic youth movement since the ASU. And that you deplore the fact that young people get influenced by the departure of the glamor element. I'm, of course, not sure that Lou reported the facts correctly, but if he did, you are not justified in your criticism. While the facts are true enough,--the youth movement is in a bad way and is at the moment a negligible element in the line-up of political forces, they are not the guilty ones. We, you and I are much more to blame. You must not forget that we got the young people in the habit of making belonging to the democratic youth movement synonymous with having access to the White House. And the liberal forces on which the young people have to rely, were just too busy decaying or stabbing each other in the back. I get more and more convinced that in the ISS we were the ones who were taken in and "used" not those we were ready to accept because we hoped to use them.

The SSA apparently had an organizational meeting. Mimi took the minutes but naturally cannot say anything about it. I have heard from her however, that they are going to raise a rather large amount of money and that Mrs. Leach and Mrs. Levy were at the meeting. Clyde with whom I talked about joining the advisory Committee of the Ussa talked of having been betrayed by the ISS and of trying to get the SSA to continue with at least part of the program. If there seems to be any chance, he will, I think, not help the USSA. Of course, it is understandable. The Heavyweights in education are after all still with the SSA. The Ussa had great success in Washington, where the Treasury department and the office of the Stabilizer became very enthusiastic about the forthcoming conference. Dr. Colm helped a great deal, and I will see him next Monday when I will be in Washington for the auditions. One thing is sure, if the Ussa is to succeed, Mrs. R. and I will have to raise most of the money, as Irene, who is the only one capable of it there is much too overburdened.

As I told you on the phone yesterday I talked to Haven about the work he thinks should be done as far as Europe is concerned. He was quite sure that the Dinner in Washington had been a very wrong move. I had the feeling he considered it as especially bad that he knew nothing about it. Mrs. R. had told him when he was there last week. He trusts Tillich and Pollock to a certain degree, but he insists that Loewe is bad. An excellent professor, he agrees, but a man who takes the color of his environment and who never gets beyond "salto politik". Staudinger he says makes so many mistakes that it is dangerous to have him around. While he agrees that Staudinger may have a modest following, he says he knows that Loewe has always worked more or less in intellectual isolation. And it is necessary now to work with people who can command the

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Exhibit H

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things work out well, this will work. But if matters become more critical, it will take more than that to stand up against weariness and negotiated peace propaganda.

And, please don't show poems of mine to people. I'm supposed to be a social scientist, and if such poems found their way into the hands of my polemicists in N.Y., I should probably see my psyche dissected with terrific results. We have to keep the peace between the various layers inside ourselves, until events heal the cleavages in our lives.

Yours,

s/ Lewis

CONFIDENTIAL

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Washington career and probably even college teaching are out of my realm of post-war possibilities. My life will not grow unreservedly within the ranks of the Marxist movement, and I cannot think of a better life.

The last days at Boca we had practice with the aerial machine gun, Tommy gun, and the usual 22 shots on the rifle range. It's strange and unbelievable when the dull thud hits your ear, your body grows tense with the rifle, and you see a "target" struck 200 yards away. Then the Judo instructor starts teaching us how to kick the enemy in the crotch. Some soldiers laugh; in fact, that's the best way to go through military experience. Others seem to have a shadow on their face, and they don't join in the practice manoeuvres cheerfully.

During manoeuvres in the Everglades, I read Dodd's Woodrow Wilson. Read it if you can to see all the problems which arise at the war's end, and how imperialist forces can crush liberalism. Dodd almost despairs in the book; he asks whether Wilson should have finally turned revolutionary as the only way to have saved his aspirations; he even despairs of the workings of democracy. The story of Wilson is the tragedy of petty-bourgeois hopes written in Greek fashion, and I hope sincerely we shan't have to see it repeated in our country.

I haven't had a letter from N. Y. in several weeks. Schappas wrote me some time ago telling me that when I'd return, I'd find things different,--that progressiveives were now becoming genuinely interested in intellectual problems and studies, and that I would no longer be a solitary torch-bearer. I hope that's so, because we'll need an intellectual movement with substance after the war.

In the meanwhile, I'll see where I can't get taken into foreign service. Incidentally, did you see "Casablanca"? It's the one remarkable film which has come out of the war thus far; it has political understanding and it goes into men's motives. I'm doing some philosophical reading, Plato, Locke, Berkeley, and I've read Hoefflering's The Defenders, an interesting novel about the last days of Austrian Social Democracy.

Do you know anybody in the Palm Beach area whom I might lock up? Morrison Field is not far from West Palm Beach. I'd like to talk with liberal, progressive, or leftist citizens, and I even wouldn't mind listening to a lovely woman's voice talking about anything she chose.

It's tough you have to be so far from everything in Chanute Field. But then, Chicago is n't far away, and you probably have friends there. I've begun to realize how my own emotional life is linked with 4 or 5 persons. One can make friends everywhere, but there are certain levels of feeling which are stirred only by certain people. And one's life, a part from the man, grows vacuous.

I hope you manage to reorganize your lines and advance after the ISS defeat. There's no reason why ideas I like the United Nations School should be put to rest. Incidentally, why don't you urge on people that they try to get some effective political education into the army? The army seems to be operating on a technological interpretation of history,--machines and mechanics will win the war. But they ought to remember that no army is great without a philosophy, that the armies of Alexander, Cromwell, Lincoln, Lenin, had a philosophy, knew what they were fighting for. The army seems to think that it can rely on the rah-rah fighting spirit. Maybe, if

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Return Address

Pvt. Lewis Feuer
313th Materiel Squadron
Morrison Field, Florida

Addressee

Sergeant Joseph Lash
T. S. S. # 7, Barracks 403
Chanute Field, Illinois

Postmark

West Palm Beach, Fla.
March 6, 1943
11 AM

March 5, 1943,
313th Materiel Squadron,
Morrison Field, Florida.

Dear Joe,

I'm now living in a tent beside the hangars, and working as a radio mechanic. We do pre-flight inspections on bombers which stop over before flying overseas. I tag along, trying to pick up the trade, but with a basic lack of technical interest. The work is not hard, except when a big fleet is in. Right now I'm on the night shift, and when our truck rolls around the field at night, it's mighty cold. No newspapers or magazines are on sale in our squadron. A special gate pass and a bus ride are required to get the Florida papers. Living in a tent isn't bad except that we're all on different shifts and keep waking each other up. Also the sun cooks you under the canvas during the afternoon when you're trying to sleep.

The men here have mostly been in the army more than a year. Unlike the Madison recruits, they seem to be intellectually numb. The military mode of existence presents them with immediate problems, viz. how to keep off details, K.P., - how to get a furlough, etc. There seems to be little inclination to discuss basic political problems; they're too tired, lack zest, and it will be enough for them to go back to their old homes, with a new appreciation of what it means to have well-cooked meals, a girl of your own, and a home that runs like clockwork. That's what they tell me when I raise the question of the effects of the war. War awakens the conservative side of men; the pre-war life gets clothed with sentimental halos. We'll have to wait and see how the immediate post-war situation will strike men. The pre-war world was ugly, and it will never return. But when I read of developments in Washington, the organizing lines of reaction, and when we hear of the alignments getting under way in Europe, it becomes clear that the post-war era will open with a strife of classes such as we never have seen.

I hope, at least, that I may be a more useful citizen in the post-war world than I am now. What I'm getting out of the Army is a chance to see men at closer range than before. Sometimes the observer has a hard time keeping his good humor. When the tent-mates talk of how they would murder a ny German or Japanese whom they captured, my respect for my countrymen goes down several notches. I often feel that it was just as well that Kazuko went home; at least she didn't have to see sundry posters and films which do not show the American people in a civilized mood. Of course, I tell my tent-mates that killing prisoners only makes them surrender less, and thus prolongs the war. Expediency provides sound argument, but one always feels less regard for the person in whose life sadism has replaced decent ordinary affection. And I find myself now talking less, arguing less, growing taciturn and dialoguing with myself. The army authorities have given me to understand that I'm not a thoroughly welcome soldier. The months, however, will go on, and each day brings the end closer. The Soviets have taken Rusec; Soviet policy comes ever forward in the leadership of the world. Things like a

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Exhibit I

Chanute Field, Illinois
March 9, 1943
201 - Iash, Joseph P.

TWP (Trude) said that she intended to visit him on the weekend of March 14, 1943. Her letters of March 9, 1943 consisted only of the 1/23/43 and 1/30/43 copies of the "New Statesman and Nations" a liberal English paper published at 10 GT. Turnstile, London, England.

The letter from ER expressed her affection for Subject and her delight in the weekend spent with him. (Exhibit III)

NOTE:

It is recommended that steps be taken to place Pvt. FEUER under surveillance. Subject and TRUDE will be kept under surveillance during their weekend meeting.

Harry F. Walterhouse
HARRY F. WALTERHOUSE
Major, Air Corps