

UNITED STATES SENATE  
WASHINGTON

Dec. 14, 1941

Dear Ethel:- Well at last I am sitting at my desk, the office is empty for the first time since I returned. One reason is the doors are locked and it's Sunday. I came down to clean off my desk and find out just how many important letters were covered up on it. Do you remember that picture with W.C. Fields as the efficiency filing expert? Well my desk is just like his was. Whenever the girls can't find a letter in the files they are morally certain it's lost on

my desk and the pitiful part about it is that sometimes it's true.

Well there's been a lot of happenings since I was in calling on you on my daddy's birthday. I have been afraid it would come but not just the way it did. We're always surprised, of course even when the expected happens - if it's war anyway. I left Saturday for Columbia to get a good night's sleep over the week end before Monday at Jeff. City. In fact I was hoping for zero. Went to bed at the Pennant Hotel outside of town about seven o'clock Saturday night and had breakfast Sunday at 8. Called the madam and went back to bed. The boy who drove me down left about noon and at three o'clock called me from Cross Timbers (I bet you never heard of it) and told me that the Japs had bombed Honolulu. The boy is a Deputy U.S. Marshall and he was on his way to Springfield. Well I phoned the St Louis office of T.W.A. and told 'em I had to be in Washington the next morning and about that time Bess called and said the Sec. of the Senate had called to say there'd be a joint session Monday and that I should be there. Well I had no

car and no driver so I called the  
little airport at Columbia, right across  
the road from the hotel and the manager  
said he had a plane and would  
take me to St. Louis. We left at 4:50  
and I was on the ground and in the  
station of the St. Louis airport at 5:35.  
It took us just 40 minutes to fly 130  
miles. Then my trouble began. I tried  
to go to Chicago and then tried Memphis  
and finally I think T.W.A. dumped some  
body off and I got on the 11 P.M. plane  
for Pittsburg. Sat up all night and listened  
to the radio got to Pittsburg at 3:30 where  
I met Sen. Chase of N. Mex. who come from  
Chicago, Sen. Davis of Pa. who lives there  
and Curley Brooks the great Republican

Isolationist from Chicago. He's a new  
Senator from Ill. Legionnaire, fat, curly  
haired has a small synthetic blond  
mink and is a most important  
Chicago Tribune Senator. He looked  
as if he'd swallowed a hot stove and  
that's the way all those anti-prepared-  
ness boys looked the next day. It  
was not because they'd been up all  
night getting there either.

I went home (we got here at 5:30 AM)  
found Bess up getting breakfast. My  
new Secretary, Harry Vaughan was at the  
airport with my car and I was at home  
by 6 o'clock. Went to bed and slept un-  
til ten and then came to the Senate.  
It was quite an occasion. Guess you

heard it over the radio. Then on  
the 11th we had to accept another in-  
vitation from Germany and Italy.  
Goodness knows where it will end.

I wish I was 30 and in command  
of a Battery. It would be a lot easier.  
They may let me run a regiment  
yet although they say not.

An old lady in Philadelphia  
wants to sell me a crest - for \$50.00  
I'll send you her letter + my reply.  
It's terrible how important a Sen-  
ator is when he gets some publicity  
for doing what he ought to.

Hope you are all well and that  
you stay that way. Bess + Marg will be  
home Dec 18th - on the train. Hope I can come  
later. My very best to all of you, Harry.