

1473

Nov. 29, 59 Cuernavaca.

Rec. Dec. 3, 59

Dea Donnie -

We are alone here at Cuernavaca this week except for Grace Katz, and I am very glad for I've had a lot of thinking to do this week. I have been preparing some brief policy papers on Latin America for some friends at home who have asked my opinion. We have handled things very badly in Latin America because we have really encouraged this anti American tide by not taking strong attitudes. There is only one thing that Latins & the South understand - and that is force and plain speaking. We have let every one call us names and kick us in the back - and it's all blackmail - but our people in the Department of State have handled the situation miserably. I think things will be better, but this new Committee appointed by Ike will create confusion rather than help because there are too many sentimentalist on it.

Here in Mexico things are not any better. They are still bound on a program of socialization which they can't carry thru. Mexican affairs are in no better shape. Taylor + McNamara and the members of the Finance Committee (except John Snyder who was not here) had a talk with the Minister of Economy on Friday - but with the Mexican position still up in the air. The longer the Government here delays positive action in our favor, the more difficult the situation.

Mikegon has been here for ten days, and there is no doubt he is a clever man, but he overplayed his hand, and kept attacking the United States every day. Now that he has left - I think it was a good thing for him to come, because he could hardly have played the Sweet hand more.

It is very cold here in Mexico as it is in the North. It was below freezing here last

night - but we have strong sunshine outside in
the patio of the house.

I am enclosing a review of a book "Diplomat"
which appeared in the N.Y. Times literary section several
weeks ago. I do not know if you saw it. The book
is really second rate. Herbert Feis, who was the chief
Economic adviser of the State Department wrote the
review. He starts out by saying Joe Green, Jeff
Coffery & I were three of the most effective
diplomats he knew. I wasn't at all flattered by
what my friend Herbert Feis said, or rather by
the Company he put me in. I don't mind being
put in the same category as Joe Green,
but Jeff Coffery was one of the worst career
diplomats we had. He made a failure at every
one of his posts.

I'm also enclosing a clipping from the N.Y.
Times, an article by Jimmy Reston, which came

out at the time that Bob Murphy resigned.
I told Marion that I seem to get into the strangest
Company. Pestic puts men like Ripley Tuck in
the same category as myself - as good men.
Tuck seldom drew a sober breath - and was a
complete stuffed shirt.

I'm only reading these clippings to show how
people whom we think should be well & completely
informed, can so mislead their readers. Herbert
Feis and Jimmy Reston are both extremely intelligent
well informed men. It just shows how little
we can believe of what we read!

We live in a world of mediocrity, and I
am one of those who believe that in our
country, in spite of all the information we have
at hand, the capacity of the great mass of
our people to understand and discriminate,

has decreased rather than increased. We had
some people in for dinner last night and while
the others were playing bridge, two of the men
& I talked and I was not only bored, but distressed,
that ^{the} two men who had such a superficial knowledge
of things they should know & that are so
important for our country now.

I shall have a rather busy week in Mexico
City. One tries to stem the tide but there
is not too much that one can do.
But as long as I can, I shall do what
I can.

Sam Katz is in New York and he told
Grace over the phone yesterday he had
talked with your

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Am writing this facing the patio of the house,
and altho it is cold, there is brilliant sun-
shine, so I will stop and go out and get
a bit of sun -

Marian & Grace Katz send their love.
to you all. I shall be writing you soon
again.

All the best -

Faithfully

Shirley