

Mexico City, Feb. 17, 59

Dear Dannie,

We are having wonderful weather here these days. I'm sorry we missed the last week end there as it was wonderful there. Marion and I went to the Valentine Ball of the American Committee for the Blind last Saturday and I didn't go home until after one - the latest I have been out for years. We had to go to this ball as I have been the advisor of these ladies who work for the blind - for some years - and they would have been unhappy if we didn't go.

The Duchess of Kent and her daughter Princess Alexandra are in Mexico for some ten days. The British are using her in Latin America that way they used to use the Prince of Wales, and so every one was supposed to wear tails. Under protest I did. It was the first time in some six years I had worn a white tie and I doubt if I will again. I had a conversation with her, and she seemed like a very pleasant person. She is about 52. The American women here are about the only people who do anything for the blind - and they print Braille books, teach the blind to read, and teach them occupations such as weaving etc.

The papers here are full about the visit of Ike to Acapulco and expect miracles from it - which of course won't happen. I am glad I made up my mind not to go.

Last Thursday night, a week ago, Marion and I went to Cuernavaca, and before going to bed I gargled my throat. It made me cough and I spit into the John, at the same time automatically pulling the string. My upper plate flew out - and you can imagine my feeling when I saw it disappearing in the John. I've had so many things happen to me that I couldn't help but laugh. The next day I had the plumbers at work to try to retrieve it - but no good. Fortunately I had an old plate that served me until the dentist here was able to make a new plate for me. I can laugh at minor tragedies now !

We are going to Cuernavaca this Thursday evening as I want to get out of the depressing atmosphere of Mexico City for some days. Things should be going well here - but the new administration is following the bad example of the last 18 months of the preceding one - over spending - and hoping we will pull them out of the hole. Most responsible people here are disturbed, and so many come to see me, Mexicans and Americans, and I can't give them much comfort. A balanced budget is essential, and private capital and initiative are getting constantly a worse deal here. Mexlight is having serious troubles and it means harm not only to the company - but to the economy of the country. Maryssael has to struggle pretty well alone, for Draper isn't here much. He has been away for two weeks, returns here this coming Saturday, and will leave again Sunday evening. Some of my friends in Washington say he hopes to succeed McElroy as Secretary for Defense !

We hope to see Anthony Eden and his wife over the week-end in Cuernavaca. He said he would come up for lunch or dinner again. He will be returning shortly to England.

I am sure Adenauer is much distressed over Dulles' illness for they have become firm friends and Adenauer has felt confidence in Dulles, which confidence I know is *united* ~~is~~. Under the best circumstances the activities of Dulles will be limited, but he may be able to play a preponderent role for some time, until this scourge carries him away. I know you do not feel about Dulles quite as I do, but I shudder to think *(of)* that some of the people who are waiting to step in his shoes, may do so, for they are such second rate people.

I hope this letter finds you and all the family well. The worst of the winter at home must be over. It has been a severe one. Sam and Grace Katz send their best wishes to you both.

Marion joins in much love and all good wishes to you all.

Faithfully,

George