

Habana, Cuba, May 29, 1940.

Dear Percy:

I have your letter of May 24 which I appreciate very much. I am delighted to know that Franck is in Paris. I saw in the paper last night that our friend van Cauwelaert is in Paris. The conduct of King Leopold is inexplicable. I am wondering whether it is not his German mother and his now Italian wister who are responsible for what seems to be nothing else than dastardly treachery. We are living through one of the most difficult periods in history in which the worst features of our nature are controlling. The present German Government has from the outset endeavored to develop discord everywhere and to use the lowest characteristics in our nature. It hasn't stopped and you may be sure that we are the ultimate objective. We have got to forget our internal dissensions and differences, put down defeatism of any kind and determine that the world shall be rid of this scourge. If we do that, the Germans will not win the war in the end even though there should be a temporary, dictated peace by them.

This has to be a very brief note as I have a good deal before me these days. What I am doing seems very important here but you may be sure that I am keeping my perspective and that I realize that in the big picture these problems here are relatively small. Everyone of us, however, has to do the best he can. I hope we shall be able to keep in touch, busy as both of us are. It is my fervent prayer that Mrs. Mitchell may improve and that you and all of us will have the strength to carry the burden which we undoubtedly will have to carry. It is a struggle which is well worth the while. With every good wish from us all to you and yours,

Cordially and faithfully yours,

Mr. W.C. Mitchell,
Vice President,
United States Lines Company,
New York, New York.

GEORGE S. MESSERSMITH

GSM/hp