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AIR MAIL



THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

(2 June)
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AMERICAN EMBASSY

Mexico, D.F., May 22, 1944.

Dear Dannie:

I have to refer further to your letter of May 11 and to my reply of May 18 which I hope you have received by this time. I have read with much interest the three memoranda which you were good enough to send me, and I find them not only very interesting but thought-provoking. I appreciate very much your sending them to me.

Mrs. Mustard is still with us. She did not feel so well after she came here, because the altitude definitely does not agree with her, but she is much better, and keeps interested in her painting. She enjoys making copies of Mexican paintings for her friends here. I tell her that they are pretty bad, but it is extraordinary what interest she takes in it, and it certainly gives her an interest in life. I am very happy that she is better and is more accommodated to the altitude here, for Marion and I are very anxious to keep her here with us. She is thinking of going home some time in the summer.

You will be interested to know that Marion's brother Lewis, who married Roger Babson's daughter, is now the proud father of a daughter whom they have named Marlene, for Marion and Helene. We are hoping that during the late summer or fall they will make us a visit here.

Martha, whom we took north with us when we went home in January, and who intended to come back with us, is evidently so enamoured of Wellesley Hills (or somebody there!) that she keeps putting off her return indefinitely. We miss her very much.

Marion's life and mine keep very full, and there is really almost too much for Marion to do. I am so occupied with my work that I have very little time for any social obligations and I have had to practically abandon everything in that respect to her, which makes her burden all the greater. I finish my job usually about 8 or 8:30 in the evening, and all I am fit for is bed.

We

D. N. Heineman, Esquire,
Suite 1700,
50 Broadway,
New York City.

We have a great many people coming here and there is usually someone with us at the house. The one thing that gives us real regret is that you and Heddy have not come down to see us. As I have told you so often, I know you would enjoy a few weeks here for there is really so much of interest and there are so many pleasant and interesting places that we could go to. It seems almost incredible that Marion and I have already been here for two years and 3 months, and that seem to be pretty nearly the limit of our stay anywhere these days, so if you are going to make a visit to us, you had better do it before too long!

If you can't come, I am going to try to persuade Heddy to come down without you. I know there is no use in asking her to come while you will be away on this trip to Spain and Portugal. We often think of you and we really do feel badly about your not coming to see us here.

By this time of course you will have heard that an arrangement has been arrived at in the matter of the employees of the Mexicana. I think the cost of the increase in wages will fall very heavily on the company, and while I have not yet discussed it with Conway, I am inclined to think that the government will ~~give~~ a small increase in rates in the not distant future which will compensate for the increase. It certainly should do so. In any event, I think it was wise for the company to take the attitude which it did, for any other attitude I think would have been unavailing in the end. As it is, I think the company's acceding to this increase has paved the way for the necessary increase in rates.

There are many things concerning which I would like to write you, but which are difficult to cover in a letter. The economic situation here is really very unsound because prices are going up on essential foodstuffs without adequate controls. Wage increases are altogether inadequate to meet a situation of this kind when there are not adequate price controls. It has almost come to the point where the larger companies and labor will have to get together to see that adequate price controls are not only established but carried through. It is a very interesting phase of the situation here that the large employers of labor are thoroughly understanding of the needs of labor for higher wages in view of existing prices and at the same time, both labor and the employers are aware of the fact that under existing conditions, increases in wages do not bring any real benefit to the workers.

I have been very much encouraged over the developments in the economic situation here but for the present I am not so happy because controls of various kinds are so much more difficult to establish in a country such as this where the economic system is not as well organized, for instance, as at home, and everyone knows that even we have enough trouble with price controls at home.

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Please give my love to Jimmie when you write. My best wishes go with you on your trip to Spain and Portugal, and I hope that this letter reaches you before you leave.

Marion and Mrs. Mustard join in love and good wishes to you all.

Cordially and faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Marion Mustard", with a long horizontal flourish underneath.