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October 11, 1941.

Dear Bob:

I read your letters with great appreciation and understanding. I know what it is to be away from home, and when you have had so many pleasant connections and also when you have had your girl conveniently close for so many years, I know how lonesome you must be at times. But of course you are grown up - you are a man and you have an adult's philosophy, I am sure.

There are just some things that we can't have when we are working for bigger things. It is only just a delayed victory, so to speak. You are now putting in your time on the most important thing in all your life, and I know that you will reap the benefit from your hours of diligent study and concentration that you are now indulging in.

Mother feels every inconvenience that you have a thousand times more than you feel it. She is so hopeful for you and her fears are unbounded when she worries for fear that something evil may come upon you. Make your letters as optimistic as you can. I think you have great fortitude and great courage, and although things appear rather glum at times to you, just remember the untold benefits that accrue to you by being fine, clean and resourceful. Someone said not long ago that after this war is over if you are to have any pleasure it must come from your head or your heart and not from any extraneous source.

You know my temperament, Bob. I never worry about the youngsters, feeling that they are self-sufficient and that when they do make a mistake that mistake will be for their own benefit. They will profit as all people profit by their mistakes if they are intelligent people. You know what I have always said to the basketball players, "Of course you will make mistakes - they are fouls, but don't make the same mistake too many times or you lose the ball game."

You were fine to bring up the question of the expense of an evening in the east as compared to one in the west. But, Bob, I want you to be your own judge on expenditures. When you feel that you need a thing I want you to have it for your own benefit, and I know that you will be fine enough to rationalize and know when expenditures are necessary. Money is only for one purpose, anyhow, and that is to get us the things that we desire. Money is an exchange for energy and when you spend that money I know that you will realize that somebody energized themselves to get it and when they got it they laid it up or laid it aside so that it might be used for benefit and pleasure.

I stayed home from the Nebraska-Kansas game this morning