

7/22/42

You have received the tank-tester story and like it. It

Dear Al, I'll tell you enough for

I think you must be OK'd in front.

Just about everything about which I should write you has been covered in the too numerous phone calls. To refresh your recollection and put it in writing

where you can remember it:

Lity/noffs - the answer was no.

Sh/slokov - you are to let me know. I told you the recent dope, the

Nazis are telling their subjects, through General Dietmars on the radio, the

major battle front on which the "tricky reds" are going to fight will be the

Don, and they will resist strongly and the battle will be a tough and long

one. I added even if the Don action were won by the Nazis there would still

be a major internal front there and the story of the Don would still be

t/mely etc.

I'm to have the Treasury proofs Monday and there will be four days

if alterations are demanded.

Army - I reported my "progress" today and told you tomorrow I'm

to see Maj. Mason, Capt. Frazer and Lieut. Schabert re the story on Generals.

I recommended the "tank-tester" story, and you want it if we can be

assured that Life won't come out with it before October 15, when you will be

out with it. If I can get a General to by-line the Generals story, and there are

sufficient incidents, you'll make it your lead yarn. I hope to be able to

see the pictures on the tank story tomorrow afternoon, when I'm to see

Mason.

Post Office - I reported the neither you nor my conversation with

the secretary or right-hand man of the P.M.G. I'm to check back Friday.

Prostitution story - I'm to see the assistant to the assistant to

Parran tomorrow and will probably have something to write you about then.

You have received the Truck-patch trooper story and like it. It

will be by-lined by C.B. Bladwin, about whom I'll tell you enough for a short biographical sketch. This story, also, must be okayed in proof. I

hadn't previously told you that a few of the pictures, if you use them, should have an Agriculture credit. You'll find their are all clearly marked on the back. There are many extra pictures to give you as wide a selection as possible.

Please return those you want use to Roy Stryker, Historical Section, Farm Security Administration. You'll have no trouble identifying the trooper pictures. You will note that you also got the other stories all rolled in, these being stories we discussed in NY in June. A picture of

Bladwin is being sent under separate cover and should have reached you by this time.

About Baldwin:

This is a typical story-book American success story.

He was born in the then small town of Radford, Va. (now a bustling munitions-manufacturing center) in 1902. He went to Virginia Polytechnical

for 3 years, then went to work for the Norfolk and Western RR as a shop inspector. Later he went into business for himself, as owner and manager of

the Radford Electrical Sales and Service Co. He made quite a reputation for himself, and Vice President Wallace, then Secretary of Agriculture,

brought him to Washington as a personal assistant in May 1933. In 1935, Rex Tugwell, then administrator of the Rural Resettlement Administration (now

Farm Security Administration), "drafted" Baldwin as his assistant administrator. He was promoted by FDR from this position to that of administrator of

the FSA in 10/40. (RRA became FSA in 1937) Since then, of course, he has held the same job. Here in Washington he is known as one of the most competent

and conscientious of public servants. As you can see from the above, he has risen on merit, his own great ability. If he has any failing, its a bunning

and, because you've got his own... no... no... no...

desire to do his job without any publicity or any of the credit he deserves.

He has hidden himself, almost, and has put up a grand and successful fight to save his agency from the merciless so-called "economy bloc".

I tell you this, Al, because I think it would be nice if you could run a short paragraph or two about him, sort of in a little box, so the readers

will know who he is. The nice things I have told you about him are an

understatement. He's a superb guy, and is entitled to a plug. He's also

one of the coming guys in the administration. I needn't tell you, after

you have read the story, what successes he has achieved.

When we had our conference in June I was to write you a memorandum

covering it. Unfortunately, I haven't. Most of the things have already

been covered and settled. However, here are the others:

OOD- I was to speak to Florence Knight re Landis. At the time I

deliberate let it slide because the Landis position was uncertain. I

haven't recently had a chance to do anything, but as soon as I clear up

the burden of immediate stuff I'll do this and you will hear from me.

Henderson-Rationing. I have already reported to you the refusal

of Henderson's flock to arrange for or allow a by-line piece. After doing

a little looking around, I recommended you forget it, which you probably

have done.

US Information Service. You want to hold this up a while. I'm

ready whenever you are. They have been preserved in the reorganization into

OWI. The head is a friend of mine, and I think there is now a better story.

Hero stories. The problems that arise are picture problems. The

heroes are available to us, "exclusive", you might say. You'll hear more

when I have solved the picture problem or have a recommendation.

Kindergartens and nurseries for war workers. I haven't done much on this, but some material should be on its way to me by now.

In addition, we discussed my compensation. You are to pay my expenses, as,

of course, you have. The rates per story and per day, until the third issue, are \$100 and \$10, the daily rate being for 8 hrs. and for work less than a story, on a story that fizzles, or on miscellaneous little odds and ends.

When I last saw you you asked me what you owed me for these little things. At that time there had been nothing of this description. Since then a few things have led to dead ends. These are as follows: The litvinoff and OPA stories didn't materialize. For these \$12.50 and \$3.00, resp. In addition, on the Army Dogs story, of which I should have witten you several weeks ago, \$2.50. From the letter I wrote last week but didn't mail, ~~there~~ (enclosed) there is an expense balance of \$3.70 due me. From the time covered by that letter to and including today there are the additional expenses listed below: Cabs, \$3.15; phones \$0.55. This all comes to \$25.40 due me, including, as I remember, everything not current (like truck-patch troopers, etc.) except \$20.00 you will pay on the next issue on the Morgenthau piece and whatever you said you were going to pay for that stamp. At the moment, I can't remember.

I'm going to rush this to the post office so you'll have it in the morning. I hope there are no serious mistakes that will go uncorrected because i havn't time to read it.

How goes everything?

Yours

Harold Weisberg