Dear Sonny,

I have made application for orders to go to China and Okinawa via commercial airliner but have received no approval. There is so much red tape attached such as designating the exact person with whom you are going to stay on Okinawa, the exact hotel you have reservations for in China, etc. etc. I have to take the time out on my annual leave which amounts to some $25 or $30 a day which together with the cost of the plane transportation makes it all rather expensive. But as you know, my regard for money is secondary. It is what I can do with it that interests me mainly. I do want to see some of these places and now is the best time if I am ever going to. So I hope the approval of my request comes in.

The latest report on the time of verdict seems to be August and some even say September. We are all just sitting around waiting now. I am reviewing some of the record of the trial and formulating some writing plans but just don't seem to be able to get in the groove. If the verdict is going to be as late as all that I am almost tempted to apply for orders home. And in spite of your advice to stay until the conclusion of the trial if I become restless I may decide to leave.

It is nice meeting some of the leading Japanese business men but I wish I had American connections, as I said before, which would lay the foundation for some specific conversation. Certainly there will be a rate of exchange established before long and certainly there will be a break in this over-all control which must allow the Japanese merchants freedom in their dealings.

I went to a little place called Nikko, Japan from Thursday through Saturday of last week. This area is noted for its beautiful scenery which comprises a mountainous area with a large, cold volcanic lake named Chuzenji. It is also infested with shrines with a richness and delicacy of handcraft almost incomprehensible to the Occidental. The shrines date back to the Tokugawa Era when the great war lord clan of Japan sprung up subjugating the Emperor to their control. I stayed at a Japanese hotel, the accommodations of which were none too satisfactory. The American first notices the inconvenience
of a Japanese "binjo". And in this latter regard I have often heard you speak the same thought.

Received letters from Fox, Dorsey and Lois. And none of which were worthy of answer except perhaps Henry's. Henry Fox always writes me nice nothings and it is always some source of satisfaction to hear such trifles. He states that Purdome is pretty much of a cinch to repeat in the Sheriff's Office. He said that Henry Jost Jr. is spending a lot of money in his campaign. And you and I know he has the money to spend. Did you tell me he had Shannon's support? I'm sure that Shanahan would have the Pendergast support if any organization at all is behind him. But I don't know whether Shannon and Pendergast are going together in this election. At any rate I am somewhat like you in expressing the thought that I don't give a damn whether the organization wins or not.

The heartbeat of Pendergast's organization is fused around what I know to be corrupt and vicious politicians, even though Jim Pendergast himself appears to be a pretty nice fellow. They are all blood suckers - Shannon and Pendergast - but this doesn't make them any different than any other political organization throughout the whole wide world. I suppose it is just our natural sourness on politics with its harshness and heart breaking qualities that is particularly nauseating.

You haven't seen politics until you see the Japanese with their double dealing greediness formulating their national policy.

I am fully convinced that Democracy will never succeed in Japan. At least it won't be acceptable to the Japanese in the form that we know it in America. However the younger people of Japan are experiencing a freedom of thought and action which will be hard to dispel after the occupation ends. And to this extent at least the American or Western influence will leave some deep rooted impressions. Just last night I saw in the paper that the modern tendency is for the Japanese girls to adopt "Jiyu Kekkon" or free choice of a husband for marriage. As you know, the Japanese now and before traditionally leave this detail to their parent for settlement.

That's about all for now. I'll write again soon. Please forgive my tardiness and the lack of correspondence.