

DALTON TRUMBO

Friday, May 7th
1948

Dear Cleo:

I know my non-letter-writing habit must be irritating. But literally, there is so much to write that I cannot think of where to start, and I am unable to write it sketchily; and I have been busy and under constant pressure, from 7 or 8 in the morning until 3 or 4 the next. But that, fortunately, is practically all over. I have had many nice experiences, and a few bad ones.

It is a curious thing, this business I have been through. As you get into it, you begin to disassociate yourself from it. You are there, in that chair, before that tribunal, only in body. The rest of you has become remote. You watch the stately, formal little dance of legality as if it were someone else involved. You become so scornful of it you can no longer take it seriously. So all that is left is a detached interest, polite and very cool.

I am told---and I was pleased to hear it---that during the fiercest denunciation of me in that room, and during the hottest defense of me, I gave no visible reaction at all. I even began to draw friendly comments from the Washington press, which is a little unbelievable. In a word, I have observed everything with interest, and have not once, either alone or with others, permitted my emotions the slightest outlet. And this is good. It is the way I hoped to do it.

As you can see from the other letters, I don't know exactly when I shall be home. I shall have to return for one hour---flying both ways in a day and a half---for sentence. But that is some time away. There is absolutely no doubt about our case as far as appeal goes. Rex tells me, in a nice letter, that he has money and you are to call on him if you need anything. And I tell you that I have been the loneliest man in America during these past ten days, staring with open envy at men on the streets and in railroad stations who have their wives at their side, and a child or two in tow.

They tell me you looked wonderful at the Butler's house the night you were there. I shall return as quickly as the good Lord permits to verify this for myself.

All love,

