

XVI

Oh hear God,



Miriam wants to drop the best experience
in her field in the world & go to secretarial school!

VIA AIR MAIL

Dr. D. Donald Chapman

Surgical III

Boston City Hospital

Boston

Massachusetts.

Dear Don,

What a pleasant Sunday I am having. I couldn't go skiing, because some very nice people inconveniently asked me to supper and I couldn't get back on time. So I slept very late - and I love the sensation of rolling over when it is light instead of dark & knowing you don't have to get up. I purposely missed breakfast - somehow on Sunday food is something to be enjoyed rather than an amalgamation of vitamins & what-have-you, - and took myself to breakfast at a very pleasant place that even furnished music - nice, breakfast music altho' not Haydn. Then, out to Berkeley Park and a walk around a little natural lake and up a sharp little hill called Inspiration Point which looks across the last part of the plains to the mountains. I sat there for an hour or so in what seems like incredibly mild weather, with the farms on the rich bottomland spread out before me, watching 3 little boys and a cocker spaniel playing at discovering gold. I came back via the Art Museum, found nothing at all exciting, and have been comfortably

asleep for the last hour. you can see that after such a very strenuous morning, I needed sleep. It's dreadful to be so lousy but it has a wonderful effect on my disposition. I am getting very unreflexed in my old age.

During the last five days I have had two very long & serious talks with the two men I respect most - Mr. Feros, head of the City Planning Commission and Mr. Cusimich, head of the University of Denver's Bureau of Research. They both understand what I want to do eventually. ~~the~~ working on a local planning commission. They are both equally candid in telling me I simply haven't got the tools to do the job I want to do. So I have decided that there's no time like the present and that I had better stop my dilatoriness & go ahead and get those tools. I have known for a year or so that my strictly general background simply wasn't sufficient but I lacked the decision to do anything about it. Much as I hate to take a year off now to delay any longer simply means a postponement of any effectiveness later. A year of good hard work now will mean I can still get back to do some really serious post-war work.

Much as it had to pass it I have only been a dilettante in Washington - it's very easy to do there & it's no reason I want so much to get out. Both Mr. Feiss & Mr. Commercial feel that I can get the general facts and economics as I go along, but that what I need now is some good training in methods. So I shall start in with (of all things) typing & shorthand and then go on to some serious work in statistical method, accounting, & real estate. They have both offered to take me on here in Denver with that background so I don't think I need to be afraid of not getting a job.

You remember what you said about your degree? That it was your entry into any community you choose? These will serve the same purpose for me - and furthermore, think of how convenient it will be for me to be able to type all your letters - not to mention letters, shorthand notes at medical meetings. Frankly I loathe the idea of typing, but it will be excellent training for my mind. Like Latin. I have thought over the possibility of doing this and working at the same time and have dismissed one thing or the other as sure

To suffer in such an arrangement. I will get it done more quickly & better by devoting all my attention to it.

There is just one thing I really need to know - do you get Thos' on the first of March or later? I will probably go back from here around the first, it will probably take me five or six days to clean things up in Washington - however, I should like to be in Cambridge when you are free for as long as possible - so if you are all through the first I will try to get up there soon. I think I'll give myself a short vacation of a week or so, preferably coinciding with yours, and then start off in secretarial school. I'd rather like to get that little pill swallowed and over with. I think I can get the worst part of the mechanics mastered by June - when summer sessions will start. I am writing to BU & Simmons for information on their courses. I suppose I shouldn't but I'd rather like to be in Cambridge for a while. I think a summer & winter session will be all I'll need. If you get around to it would you write a postcard telling me when you get through and your preference as to the time of my arrival? Decisions are over things - they leave one feeling very clean and alert.

Thos.