

From Harry S. Truman to Bess W. Truman, July 5, 1939

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Washington D.C.

July 5, 1939.

Dear Bess:-

Well I arrived in good shape. When I put on my clean shirt and the same gray silk suit I had at home, Mildred remarked that I looked fresh as a daisy-and I felt the way. I wasn't tired or worn out at all. I had the most peculiar tire trouble. The wheel split for about three inches and cut the tube in such a way that the tire went flat. I heard it squeaking at Richmond Ind. and got out and took the wheel wrench and tightened it up. At Springfield just in front of a tire shop and filling station the air all went out of the tire and I had to put on the spare. I am going up to Hagerstown Friday and see if that fellow won't give me a new wheel.

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It shows about a half inch of old rusted break and the rest is new just like a piece of tin when you bend it back and forth and that wheel has never been off the car.

They called the vote in the Senate at ten minutes to five instead of five o'clock. I was changing my shirt and shoes and suit and couldn't arrive in time to vote. It rained on me from Washington, Pa. to Braddock Heights, Md., and slowed me up so that I arrived at 4:45 instead of 3:45 as I intended. I left Springfield at 5:15 A.M. which would have put me in, easily. Had breakfast at Norfolk, Ohio, half way between Zanesville and Cambridge; and lunch this side of Cumberland where the sign says "Buttermilk and Ginger Bread." The Buttermilk was good and so was the Gingerbread.

Went over to Biffle's office after the

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Senate quit and had a drink with Senators Wagner, Herring, and Ellender. Wagner said some nice things and Herring said he intended to campaign all the Iowa border counties of Missouri. There are a number of letters from all over the state giving the governor a real dressing down. One calls him Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde-for T.J.P. to get elected and against him to get headlines.

Herring said the President was very emphatic to him in an interview, after the one with Barkley, in wanting me to be reelected, said that Roosevelt thought the governor "an egotistical fool." Wish I could publish that!

I wasn't going to call you but I had to do it. It's hell when you have only

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one sweetie. But if hell's like that, I want to go there. The girls were very much pleased when I let them talk.

Hope you get a change of weather. Biffle thinks I made a good move by trying to get in to vote. It was too close for comfort. Mr. Clark voted "no" as usual. Pat Harrison voted "yes." He told me the other day that he'd come to Mo. in the primary if I wanted him and that isn't done. I'm going to lick that double-crossing, lying governor if I can keep my health. If I do then I can really do something here for Missouri. I know I could if Old Jack or Wheeler should happen to be the fair-haired boy.

Tell my baby (big, sweet girl if she likes it better) that her dad wants to hear from her as well as her mamma.

Love to you

Harry.