

October 8 (P) '40

Dearest Tomoye;

I give it up! I have, in interstices of time, canvassed every outlet within reach to find out about a used Simonds Omega enlarger. There are simply not on the market down here - apparently everyone who has one is too well satisfied to consider switching, which speaks well for your choice. So; shall I see about our wholesale outlet or will you accept a check for a new one?

I am trotting my silly head off on my job - working a good deal less than in the past, but travelling a good deal more, it seems to me. I have had to take things a little more easily. My bad back caved in, and I have had to



do more resting than at any other time I can remember. It is better, now, but I still need 10 hours a day flat - and 12-13 hours twice a week doesn't hurt me. Oddly enough, "the road" is much more restful than home. In an hotel, I can pitch into bed whenever I get a chance, whether it be three pm or 7, but at home I can't - esp. I can't go to bed in the early evening, or I have no time to visit with Harry. We are getting more music again. For awhile after the pricecut on records, we were all "bought up" ~~on~~ our funds for music, but in the last ten days, we have been able to start again.

We are, piece by piece, having some furniture made.

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— mainly because we have a good,



the stability of  
careful man, whose work we can  
trust - and it doesn't cost any more  
than good quality readymade stuff,  
about which we might not be  
so sure.

I continue to be upset about  
the relationships across the Pacific.  
The tripartite agreement, with  
Britain's slap back ~~via~~ of opening  
the Burma road seems to delay  
the possibility for months of a  
face-saving agreement between Japan  
& China. I especially begrudge it, of  
course, because of my sympathy  
for China, but I am nearly as much  
in sympathy with hungry, cold,  
homefolks in Japan. The minor  
consolation that it can't last forever  
doesn't help me one bit.



I am disgusted about the enlarger. I had expected last month to send it, & was able to devote two days in town to looking for it, but, as I say, to no use whatever. Do whatever you see fit.

Now I find I haven't your address! Another day's delay in reaching you.

Affectionately but exasperatedly,  
Helen