Most everything in the residential areas unaffected by the deluge, is now back to normal. Movies, with the increased power available, are once more operating - though of course, as you undoubtedly know, all the downtown lovely houses are ruined and will not be open perhaps for months. What a loss to the companies!

The real tragedy, however, lies in the destruction of, I might say, all of the business section. If you could see the muddy streets, battered shops, ruined business people, the humand bustle of our little city converted into a quiet, battered territory undisturbed, except for the hum of engines still pumping water out of basements and first floors, your heart, too, would cry at the desolate scene. Of course, you have read and heard about the restrictions on entering the district below Smithfield Street - militia, local police and CCC men stationed at the intersections to permit no one to pass unless he has urgent business there. I went through "the lines", as it were, and saw so much it would take endless words to describe. I know nothing of the war-ridden countries in Europe, but to me

Friday - the 27th

Dear Dorothy -

I seemed to feel there was something wrong when I didnt hear from you, and the card I mailed yesterday before getting home from the doctor is proof of my concern about you. When I got in the house and found your letter, I had another of those feelings of gratification one receives when a thought is reciprocated. However, when I read the letter and learned of your illness, and the way it had you "laid-up", I, of course, felt pretty badly and wanted to write you again at once. After the treatments, though, I usually feel a little tired and weak, so I had to postpone writing until today and I do

hope I can get it off to you this afternoon. If I write at great length as I usually do, it'll be another few days before I can finish, since the afternoon is drawing to a close and "Shabbos" here cannot be defiled by writing.

How did you ever get that condition in the coccyx? Did you fall and bump yourself during the city siege? Anyway, I do hope you are all through with the inflammation and are now on the go again. You know how much I hope for your welfare. All I can say is take care of yourself and let God take care of the rest.

Well, to get back to my favorite manner of analysis, it pleased me much to get your message which made it clear to me that only because something was wrong did I not hear from you, especially at this time when terror and disaster reigned here. You know Pitts-

burgh too well to have been unduly alarmed about those whose abode is high above the flooded area. As you said, we (our family and those in our vicinity) were only inconvenienced by lack of power and all it controlled — light refrigiration, radio, telephone, transportation, — at another time all this taken from us would have meant real discomfort and hardship, but compared to the desperate situation of those in the water-covered districts, we were merely doing without a few modern conveniences. It was no fun, you can bet, staying in for a candle-lit house, no radio, cut off from the world. When at last a newspaper was available, there was a mad scramble out to purchase one from the newsboy on the dark street. Even heat was threatened to be nil, for a water shortage meant no steam heat, and then no water to wash in or drink. Autos, too, were scarcely used for a few days because gasoline was being sold at a premium — as high as a dollar a gallon — no power to run the pumps, and the few hand pumps produced only a limited supply of gas.

-8-

already heard from Betty.

Love

Eve

Rushing as Father is going.

-5-

K

the sight of truck-loads of militia men, being transported through a torn and broken community, made me think of a city left bleak and bare after a war-time raid. Bricks in the streets loosened by the strength of the rushing waters; plate-glass windows shattered; mud-covered merchandise thoroughly soaked by the water which had covered it, being thrown in heaps on the sidewalks before they were carted away to the dumps; debris from basements which had not been cleaned for perhaps a quarter of a century littered on the streets; articles of furniture being salvaged and placed outside to dry (and it rained until yesterday); office buildings deserted except for a few valiant souls struggling up dark stairways (man-made strikes are nothing for Contraband workers can be secured — but Nature's strike left everyone powerless).

disinfectants, food, etc., on the counters where the usual merchandise formerly was) and all hospital employees, including Anne, have received their initial dose" — two more coming.

Shall write more in a few days — Father is going to the synagogue and will mail this for me thus saving me the trip down the street.

Bestest and be well. Regards to Bert and to your folks.

Hope you were able to attend the party tonight. Surprised about Helen & his visit to Florida. It must have been a speedy one.

Mim is married since Tuesday in the midst of the flood excitement. Haven't spoken to her since Monday but last night Dot S. called and told me, so shall tell you more unless you

All this and more, more. And then, on Wednesday there was the threat of gas explosions. Extra precautions were taken about permitting anyone to enter Fifth Avenue where the underground was being searched for leaks. The pipes were affected, of course, by the water, and how sad would have been further disaster. The leaks were detected and repaired, and now there is nothing else to fear but the spread of disease. Alas, if an epidemic should start, but so far all is well, except that my doctor said it might not be for a number of months that the effects of the filthy deposits left here by the angry waters would appear. As for me, I once had a very serious case of typhoid and the doctor says that I quite assuredly would not be in danger again.

All of Kaufmann's employees have been innoculated (Kaufmann's out of the danger zone is open but you should see the dingy lights, quiet elevators, few people and emergency needs — cleaners