

November 25, 1947

Dear Mrs Brack,

Thank you very much for your kind letter of November 20th. I am sorry to say that within the last few days unexpected complications have arisen which will lead to a further unavoidable postponement. You may have seen in your newspapers that the Canadian Government has had to take severe measures in order to cope with "the dollar crisis." Drastic restrictions have been imposed on "pleasure travel" in the United States and we Canadians are now allowed to spend only \$150. per year for this nefarious pastime. There is a possibility, however, that I might be allowed considerably more if I can show that I am travelling for business purposes only. It would, therefore, be very helpful if the Alumnae Association could let me have a letter worded something like this:

"The president and members of the Johns Hopkins Hospital Nurses Alumnae Association are contemplating the preparation of an official history of this Association. You are invited to come to Baltimore for the purpose of discussing the possibility of your participation in this project. "

Armed with this persuasive document, I ought to be able to soften the hard hearts of our fiscal authorities. I am told that my chances of getting by would be better if I were to apply for leave to go in January rather than in December. It seems that far too many Canadians who just want to spend New Years Eve in New York are trying to prove that urgent business makes their trip absolutely necessary. I am sure that I could get off to a better start if you could let me have the letter by way of proof and be patient with me a little longer.

These new restrictions were imposed overnight and apply to many other aspects of our daily lives. As a result, the cost of living is soaring and there is talk of reviving rationing and price controls. Does all this sound sadly familiar? I am afraid that it does.

A copy of this letter is being sent to Miss Wolf and I shall await further word from both of you. I hope that Mrs McVicar is progressing favorably.

Cordially yours,

Ethel Johns