

A Letter to the President

By MARGARET LATROBE

DEAR Mr. President:

They say you are such a busy man these days you can't possibly read all your mail, so perhaps you will not see this. We know you are busy—how could we fail to? And most of us have complete confidence in you at a crucial moment of not just our future, but that of the world. Many of us would like to help you in any way we could, but we feel pretty helpless about doing anything more than just carrying on our own jobs the best we can.

The reason for this letter is that a lot of people feel there is someone who could help you, a man of proven stature and experience, a man who now is—well, you might say he is sort of "between engagements." He is employed, yes. But while his present job is a dandy, one which requires

his best efforts, still it does not require the highest potential of which he is capable.

As a matter of fact, Mr. President, he had a birthday not long ago. And if that celebration had had a six instead of a seven in the total he might have been tempted to send in his application for the job you so capably fill today. For this was his seventy-fifth birthday.

The man I speak of is General Douglas MacArthur.

SOME of us wish his words "I Shall Return," spoken at a time none of us will forget, could be used in another way. We fervently wish he could return to the service of his country, which, if it ever needed him, needs him now.

Without reflecting upon any man who wears four stars, we feel that MacArthur is a gen-

eral's general, a man who knows the Far Eastern situation like few others, and who understands the American situation mighty well, too (We've had a few civilian experts, as you are aware, who have known one to the exclusion of the other.) It seems to us that Douglas MacArthur's entire career, his penetrating mind and wise judgment, unless called back in an advisory capacity, will have been wasted in a tragic way.

If you, Mr. President, wanted invaluable counsel from any man, you are big enough, wise enough, to ask for it. We don't believe you would let any consideration—political, inadvertence, or who outranks whom—stand in your way.

Will you recall him to active duty? Very active duty, very soon? With the greatest respect, sir, we ask.

Copyright, 1955, King Features Synd., Inc.