

6 Maledi Street,  
Galeshewe Village,  
Kimberley.  
9th May, 1972.

Mrs Nell Marquard,  
Windrush,  
Draper Street,  
C L A R E M O N T.  
C A P E.

My dear Nell,

Thank you for both your letters which I should have answered sooner.

First of all, I have not yet received Baldwin's books and judging by past experience I am not likely to receive them. The Big Boss has probably decided that I am not mature enough to read those books. Result? They just got lost; they fail to reach their destination. I am told however, that Baldwin's books are obtainable from the local C.N.A. I'll try and get them. It's just a pity that whoever has the books you sent is not likely to be improved by them.

I haven't yet found the articles you refer to though I recall reading about conscientious objectors myself. I am going through the past copies and will take down the details and send them to you when I find them.

Veronica has gone to Johannesburg for a few weeks. I am unable to attend to the garden as well as she did and I fear she'll find a number of casualties when she returns.

Kaunda's trouble is the trouble of all liberals, Nell. By definition, I think, a liberal cannot be consistent. It is only the communists and the Fascists who can because they bend the facts to fit their ideologies. The liberal, open to new and convincing ideas all the time, must of necessity embrace a superior and more convincing argument.

It is worse when one is in government. But, mind you, detention without trial, cannot be excused. If he is a

humanist as he claims he is, then Kaunda must have these men tried. Unfortunately he is trying to be a strong man, probably influenced by some members of the party, and is, in the process, destroying his image and making a fool of himself. Every time he tries this "kragdadigheid" of his he blunders. blunders.

Things are getting more interesting by the day, both locally and overseas. "The dogodly", we were told, "shall neither slumber nor sleep! But it would appear that the "godly" too are subject to incurable insomnia.

The tribal universities are, like the Bantustans, turning out other than our lords and masters had intended them. And I think the unkindest cut of all is that Turfloop, the tribal college par excellence, should be, as a certain unsuccessful candidate for the now defunct Native Representative seats said of Fort Hare, "die broeines van komunisme", with sit-ups and sit-ins and sit-outs. What's this country coming to?

And the other day, at the Revenue office here, a "Messenger boy" complained that the missus was attending to the White queue and ignoring them. A White man told him to shut up or else..... "Ag nee bang" said he, "Jy praat nou en tye se goed. Ons word nie meer ge....." What are things coming to?

And the search for a Prime Minister? Life still has its humour.

A friend of mine Jeff Kay, told me he was going to Cape Town and I asked him to call on you. But I don't think I need to warn you Nell that these are not my "political" friends. They are my social friends with whom I discuss literature and the cinema and, perhaps, *MANAGE!* ~~liberal and miscell.~~

How are you and Leo getting on? As soon as my ban is lifted I'll drive down to Cape Town and spend a fortnight with you and let Elaar Coetzee and his gang try and tell me I may not!

God bless.

Affectionately,

  
ROBERT....

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