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Hilton,
3245.

PC16/51/5142

17th June, 1987.

Mr. Anthony Egan,
6, Elffers Road,
Milnerton,
7441.

Dear Mr. Egan,

Thank you for your letter of June 3rd, asking for my recollections of Leo Marquard, but I am afraid there are a lot of your questions that I can't really help you with. In many respects I only got to know Leo Marquard best after I was banned and when he used to make a point of coming to visit me on his not very frequent visits to Pietermaritzburg.

I didn't know him at all before 1953, so I can't help you at all over that period. Nor am I very clear about the role played by him at the meeting at which the Liberal Party was launched. My recollection is that he was in favour of a Party but I think the person you should see about that, if you have not already done so, is Dr. Oscar Wollheim. The Transvaal and Natal representatives at that meeting were fairly definite in wanting a Party, it was in the Cape contingent that the doubts lay and where the overnight swing of votes almost certainly took place. Wollheim would know that, I think, and perhaps Walter Stanford, who I think also lives in Cape Town.

The Western Cape Division of the Liberal Party, in general, was the most conservative. The people who comprised it were very much successors to the "Cape Liberal tradition", committed to a qualified franchise and believing in "orderly evolution". Leo Marquard was essentially a liberal pragmatist I would say, who probably also believed in "orderly evolution" as the best course but his views were much less hidebound than those of most of the older W.Cape Liberals. I think this may have lain partly in his close associations with NUSAS, which kept him in constant contact with developing student thought. He was certainly a most open-minded person, prepared to see everyone's point of view and to be persuaded by those views if necessary. Although his health and other activities kept him out of office in the Liberal Party for quite a considerable time I don't think he found difficulty in accepting the radicalisation of its policies and certainly there was never any question of his leaving the Party, as other W. Cape members did.

David Welsh had a lot to do with him in his later years and tried all he could to persuade him to write his autobiography, so he is another person you should speak to if you have not already done so.

I am afraid this won't have been of much help to you.

Yours sincerely,

Alfred Marquard