

2 Buchan Rd., Newlands, 7700.
13th April, 1983.



Dear Peter,

It's not often one opens the newspaper these days and reads a story that lights up the day. You must all have been as elated as we to read about Bill's new distinction. Enclosed are photocopies of local news stories, and I also got a letter into the Argus. I hope Reality has managed to get a good photograph of Bill in his black and gold robes with the white gloves, for the next cover!

Please could you show my letter to Mr. P. and say I felt sure he would have approved my quoting him in above letter. That was a super photo of him on your last cover.

(Jan.)

I phoned the Cape Times editor and drew attention to Reality's article on detention by Julian Riekert, and he hadn't seen it, so I sent a copy in - and they did this editorial (copy enclosed). I'd like to know more about J.R., I see another excellent contribution about Neil Aggett in next issue.

Harry has taken Eddie out walking - one occasion into the Cedarberg for 4 or 5 days. E. was like a schoolboy, blew his mind, as they say. H. is very fit, but E. seems to have some respiratory ailment which he's going to the doctor about - just some inefficiency of the lungs on exertion. Don't be too alarmed, I haven't yet heard what the medic says.

I've just been speaking to Cromwell's widow, and enclose notes of our talk. When she lets me know how much extra she needs, I am going to ask you for help, so expect a letter! Sorry this has taken so long, but it has taken me quite a while to get back in the swim after this spinal op.

The Crossroads scene is very ugly, and I am very dissatisfied with the press and PFP attitude to the final version of the Defence Amendment Bill on C.O. They imagine because the Minister accepted relatively many amendments that the requirements of C.O. have somehow been met, but this is far from the case. I keep hoping they will shelve this legislation. The third reading has not yet taken place.

Love to you and Phoebe,

Dot

I 'phoned Agnes this morning at the place where she chars - I was somewhat reluctant because I might have caused embarrassment with her "madam". Fortunately she had just gone out, and Agnes could talk quite freely. She was amazed at the timing because she had just resumed work after a month's absence - the reason she'd not contacted me being illness (nausea and vomiting in the mornings, so giddy she could not stand - the doctor said her blood pressure was up). Better now.

* (17 yrs) Agnes thinks she's had too many shocks lately. A close friend dropped dead with heart failure, she had seen him the day before. Her (late) eldest child's son, also called Bennett* (original Bennett murdered some years ago, returning from work), knocked down by a car in NY.50 outside ID Mkhize school - car couldn't brake, crashed into fence - which was fortunate in that B's injuries were cut and bruised legs - if it had been a wall he might have been killed. Police and ambulance came to take him to hospital. On 27th March another son was stabbed chest and back, fortunately knife did not touch lungs or heart - he has recovered - it was a Sunday late afternoon, his friend was attacked and he went to help his friend. On 5th December, when she was about to take off the black she has been wearing since Cromwell's death, her grandchild, James' son (they live next door to her) called Hubert was stabbed to death - it was his 21st birthday.

We discussed the proposal for a stone for Cromwell's grave. I told her the money from white friends had been intended for the two of them to use for living, that my idea had been to suggest perhaps a book prize in Cromwell's name at the High School, possibly an essay prize ("freedom, liberty"), but I'd asked both Peter and David R. whether this was just a typical white Liberal's suggestion, and they agreed and felt she must make the decision and we will help.

Agnes understood, but feels this ~~is~~ is something she and the family really want to do - the headstone. Cromwell started it, she said, when Bennett was murdered, Cromwell waited a year, then he "took his last penny" to provide a headstone for his son. They did this also for the grandchild who was murdered. Now the family are asking her why don't we make father's stone, and promise to help her.

The last time James asked, the maker's ~~the~~ price was about R600. But she has not yet got "the words to put on the stone". She will send James to check again the price. I said the family should go ahead and we will help with the money. Agnes is 68 now.

D.C.
13 Apr.83