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PC 116/5/4/1/23



Dear Peter

I have written to you twice since I heard from you, but you may not have received either letter. I am particularly doubtful about the second, posted in Empangeni on Monday the 9th, I think, but understamped by a cent! The P.O. may be sitting on it, or have returned it to me, or thrown it away, or something.

Anyway, not having heard from you again, and therefore not knowing whether you can manage a meeting, I have decided to deliver your MS to Colin Gardner with a request to pass it on to you. I shall ring him tomorrow about it: I am going up to see a friend in PMB on Friday morning, so I must obviously take the opportunity of seeing the MS get_s back to you. Again, please accept my humble apologies for the delay in contacting you since last year. It has been a great privilege - and education - to read your work. It has left ~~me~~ me with one abiding impression: a sense of irreparable loss. Astonishing resources of energy and intellect, of ^{the} intense goodwill towards the poor, the oppressed and/powerless, of political acumen and idealism, and of sheer ability to get down to backbreaking - and heartbraking - political spadework wherever it was most needed - all of this extraordinary endeavour in the best of political causes, that of liberal democracy, has dried up and disappeared like a river run into the sand. It's carried/^{on} in other ways by other people, of course. But the death of the Liberal Party has been a calamity for race relations in this country, no doubt about it.

I do hope you find the time to continue working on your history, and of bringing it to fruition in the form of publication. Thank you for letting me read it.

Yours sincerely

Nigel Bell