

P.O. Box 71, PC16/5741/30
Hilton,
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31st May, 1984.

Dear Wertzels,

This is to let you know what has happened recently about trying to get the story of the Liberal Party written.

Some weeks ago I was approached by Douglas Irvine, who is now head of the Politics Department at the local university, to say that he had talked to Terence Beard when he stayed with him last year, and more recently to David Welsh in Cape Town, on the subject of producing a book on the LP which would attempt to set straight the lop-sided view of the story of those times which the Marxists have succeeded in having accepted as gospel in most universities. Having thought that this was something I should be doing, and having known that you had thought that it was something you should be doing, I was delighted to find that there was somebody else thinking the same thing, and who might take the job over.

I told Douglas I was in favour of the idea but that I would like to talk to Alan about it..... and in order to test his qualities of endurance I gave him to take home with him a thing of about 400 pages which I had collected in the first couple of years of my ban, which catalogued events up to about 1966 and which David Philip thought could be the basis for a publication when Alan showed it to him last year.

Alan and Douglas and I met a couple of weeks ago. Douglas had first thought in terms of a rather "academic" edited series of essays, I think. I thought we should have more of a "story" which people other than academics would be able to face reading. Alan is very excited about the idea and Douglas has now agreed to take the job on, starting in the second half of the year.

What do you think about it? Any suggestions, contributions? I am sending this with Jonethan so that you know what is happening and we can now discuss the matter either through the post or on the phone without revealing more than we want to. Jonethan can fill you in on Douglas who joined the Party as a first year student in the mid/fifties, so has good credentials on these grounds anyway.

Love to you all.

Peter

P.S. Since I wrote that Jonethan has brought Peter Vale to see me. I think his idea for an academic occasion at Rhodes is good, but I don't think it should be at the expense of the Irvine story. The two should complement each other don't you think?