

Pei/1/7/25/181

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3rd February, 1964.

Dear David,

I am returning your queries with my own comments. I think this is quite a good method, and will cause less delay, but I must mention one difficulty, which I don't think is serious. Apparently my typescript is not identical with yours. We finished the corrections in great haste at Windrush because I was tired out and we were determined not to stay over another night. So it could have happened that page numbers were not identical - errors may have crept into the actual numbering - although I am sure that word for word the three typescripts are the same. If you will continue your own numbering but also give the chapter and chapter page I think that will eliminate the difficulty.

I have now read the whole biography again, and I am glad to report that, except for the first five chapters, I was bored only at one point, and that was the beginning of Chapter XX. I would like you to read the beginning of this chapter again and tell me whether you do not think it could usefully be abbreviated. You might also indicate at what point the narrative again goes with a swing.

Please try and get hold of the SUNDAY TRIBUNE of January 19. Scott Haigh's column, 'The Political Scene', contains a review, unauthorised and unexpected, I must say. If you get a few reviews like this you will no doubt be pleased.

Now in regard to the first five chapters, I have already removed a good deal of material, but I am prepared to remove more after a re-reading by you. I want your frank advice about this. Would it be possible to begin setting up the book at Chapter VI, or have you already started?

I have the following comments to make after my last re-reading.

Chapter XX - first few pages to be abbreviated.

" XXV - P.15, omit para beginning "That was quite a point".

- Chapter XXVIII Doesn't the beginning show Smuts's greatness.
- " XXIX S. Lepkowsky. Why S?
- " XVI Omit lines 24 onward from "Moll... to ".....be created". Lucky I spotted this; it is not true.
- " " P. 12. Ten lines from bottom, say "a Socialist who at that stage of his career believed in preferential rights for white" etc.
- " VII P. 12. Omit "and how deeply Afrikaner arrogance.....God forgive us all"??
- " IX P.9, Line 9, "Things would have been different had her rival been a woman".
- " X P.3, 3 lines from bottom, after "overwrought by it" add "all"
- " " P.6, 8 lines from bottom, delete from "for only the saint....."blame or praise".
- " I P.6. Is "sexual expression" the correct phrase?
- " II P.7, 13 lines from bottom, delete "would not....."such a man", and substitute "there was an understanding in the family that no Schreiner took such a gift from such a man".
- " IV P.4, para beginning "Frank Brabant". Next time I go to Johannesburg I must check whether Brabant was President of the Christian Union or of the Christian Movement.

Could Chapter IV stand re-writing?
- " V P.6, let us delete lines 12 and 13.
- " " P.12, para beginning "Hertzog's speech..... Is this confusing, and should it be re-written? Or would it suffice in line 5 of the para to add "confusing" after "What was more....."?

I suppose you will be sending me the proofs bit by bit. I think however I would like to do the final re-reading in Cape Town, where we could discuss the book for the last time. Naturally one would not expect to make big changes at the time.

Your second instalment of niggles arrived this morning. I am replying to them in a separate letter.

Best wishes.

Yours sincerely,