



PC/1/7/30/2/16

19th November, 1948.

Thank you for your letter of 16th Oct. I am taking advantage of a little time off between meetings to reply to it.

I was interested to learn of your Association with Prof. Leslie, He was I think just finishing off at NewX College when we went up. I remember him talking at the Union, but have seen nothing of him since. Nor have I seen anything of our other contemporary, Cyril Joad, though I had a letter from him about a year ago - that was before the incident of the railway journey.

The Conference of PMs of which you wrote does not seem to have achieved a great deal apart from dropping the noun "British" from the Commonwealth of Nations, (by implication). Apparently in doing so, it has satisfied Mr. Nehru.

Meantime we here watch with special interest proceedings at UNO where matters of some concern to us are being discussed. It would seem that the disfavour with which our present Govt is viewed does not make things any easier for us there.

A week or two ago I had lunch with Geoffrey Lloyd, one of your Tory "High-ups", and a one-time Minister of Fuel (?) under Churchill. I liked him. When I asked him whether the Conservatives would win in 1950 he said that he would have answered in the affirmative, had it not been for the unexpected results of the American Presidential elections which seemed to him to be due to the resurgence of the little man. He was afraid that the same thing might put Labour back in England. Since then there has been the big reduction in the Labour majority in Edmonton, (quite near you, not so?) which seems to point in the opposite direction. What do you think?

Here we have a Govt which (in our opinion) gets more and more outrageous by the day, but so far there is no evidence of a big swing against them in quarters that could disturb their majority. That may however be brought about by financial and economic difficulties, which are beginning to show themselves. We are now (somewhat belatedly) trying to cut down on dollar imports - and of course that sort of thing always leads to friction and difficulty. Apart from that, money is getting tighter, and it looks as if there are hard times ahead of us, which wont be too good for the Govt.

I got my new Chevrolet in good time before the restriction of dollar imports, and am very pleased with it. Otherwise too I find life quite pleasant. I do a certain amount of journalistic and other literary work, and for the rest am kept busy with a heavy correspondence and a good deal of political activity.

My mother who will be 85 in a fortnight's time is still very vigorous although she has been losing weight of late.