

31  
Lynton Road,  
KLOOF,  
Natal, South Africa.

26th February, 1957.

My dear John,

In August, 1956, Kent School sent me a generous cheque, worth in South African money £595. All this money has now been distributed, and it was a great pleasure for me to do so. I hope that by now each of the recipients has written to the School. I would be glad to hear from you if any have not, but only if it is easy for you to get this information. The money was distributed as follows:-

1. I paid £100 to the African Children's Feeding Scheme, which supplements the often inadequate food of African children in parts of Johannesburg.
2. I offered Trevor Huddleston £100 for any object which he named and he asked it to be sent to the Huddleston *Discretionary* ~~Discriminatory~~ Fund, to be used for a missionary couple whose furlough was overdue.
3. I gave £160 to the Liberal Party, £58 of which was used for the travelling expenses of poorer delegates (that means Africans) to the Natal Congress, and £102 for the same purpose to the National Congress in Capetown.
4. I gave £50 to the Botha's Hill Anglican Mission towards the building of a Church, the present one being dilapidated in the extreme.
5. I gave £35 to the Wilgespruit non-racial Community, which is a Christian Community with no colour-bar. Seeing that this was oecumenical, I severely reduced the amount.
6. I gave £100 to help start an African Ratepayers' Association in the north of Natal. The Government intends taking away the freehold rights of these people in its mad pursuit of apartheid, and while I do not think that the founding of the Association will prevent this, I hope that it will teach lessons of organisation to a people who are as yet politically unawakened.
7. The remaining £50 I gave to the Treason Trials Defence Fund, which was sponsored, amongst others, by people



line the Archbishop of Capetown, the Bishops of Johannesburg and Natal, and myself, and other honourable, distinguished, indomitable, and incorruptible South Africans. More of this in a moment.

I think that my choices were pretty good on the whole - charity, politics, and religion, all received their share, and that is a well-balanced recipe for a Christian.

Now let me tell you a word about the Treason Trials. In early December the police swooped down on one hundred and fifty people and accused them of high treason. It is of great importance, no matter what the result, that these trials should be just. It is very important that the authorities should, at every turn, be confronted by a spirited and able defence. If as a result, justice is done, many of these people will have been saved from severe penalties. That some of them did intrigue with foreign countries I think is possible, but on no account ~~was~~ must one forget that a totally unenfranchised and defenceless people might easily look elsewhere when there is no hope to be found at home. These trials may well endure for two years, during which time it can be expected that many of the accused will have been financially broken. Nor must we forget the fact that the Government which is prosecuting these alleged traitors is guilty of applying the doctrines of racial separation without justice or mercy. Anything that you could do, John, to persuade Americans to help this immaculately sponsored fund will be a deed for God and the Right (I know that you as a Republican would not favour God and the Left).

I myself will be tried on March 28, with some others, for taking part in a meeting at which Africans were present, we having neglected to get the Mayor of Durban's permission. This case, however, is rendered quite insignificant by the Bill now threatening, namely, not only to forbid me, for example, from entering a black area (which is more or less the case already), but also forbidding any school, church, or institution in a white area to allow Africans to be present at any gathering unless with the consent of the Minister of Native Affairs. This will strike at the Church, the Institute of Race Relations, the International Clubs, and the Liberal Party. I rejoice that at last they have threatened the Church, because the Church has been far too slow at understanding the Government's intentions. Nevertheless I think it is still possible that the Government will say to the Church, "this is not really aimed at you, but at subversive organisations. It is my belief that no Church will seek the Minister's permission and that a real stand is at last to be made, but if it should happen that the Minister should announce his intention of not enforcing this



regulation in regard to the churches, I should not like to predict that church people will rush to the defence of other threatened bodies. I begin to understand more and more clearly how Hitler picked off his enemies one by one. I begin to see that it was not only through fear but is also due to the fact that people do not readily rush to the aid of any organisation to which they do not belong. Many of my friends feel that this is the ultimate act of the Government, and that it is virtually declaring that attempts to cross the racial barriers are acts of treason to the State. Many of us feel here that the Government is going mad.

A few days ago a young Afrikaner policeman arrested and handcuffed a 14-year old English-speaking girl and took her off to the police-station, because he alleged that she had spat when the police-van passed her. These things are quite fantastic and seem to be akin to the delusions which afflicted The Inquisitor when he decided to bring God before his committee. Just how the Liberal Party will oppose the new Bill I do not know, but it seems to me that I have now reached the stage when I would rather go to prison than obey such a law.

Dorrie and I are both well and send you and Betty our best wishes.

Please tell Bill Armstrong that his book has just arrived and I shall shortly read it.

Once again, thanks to the School for the Chapel offerings. It is nearly a year ago that Dorrie and I were staying at Kent.

Yours ever,

A.

P.S. I thoroughly enjoyed the article on Wisconsin in the last National Geographical, but thought that far too little attention was paid to the great city of Madison.

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